

THE NATIONAL

# Wool Grower

VOLUME XXXIX

MAY, 1949

NUMBER 5

## SHEARING CAMP IN SAGEBRUSH HILLS OF EASTERN WASHINGTON





## STIDHAM'S LONG RANGE VIEW

Grass and cattle work together to produce meat and conserve the soil on the Dennis Stidham ranch in Dewey County, Oklahoma.

Stidham took the long range view in planning his operations. Much of the land in his 5600 acre ranch, plus the 2700 acres he rents, used to be farmed in small 160 acre units. "I felt that the best possible use for this land was to put it in grass which would act as a cover crop, tie down the soil, and protect it from wind and heavy rains. My first job was building terraces to hold the water on the land." He then used phosphate and nitrogen fertilizer and seeded buffalo, grama and sand lovegrasses and sweet clover to build his pasture. "By rotation grazing, I can maintain a good stand of the better grasses and it helps to control weeds. I also do a lot of mowing for weed control."

Cattle are making this pasture program a financial success as well as a soil-building success. Dennis has

a herd of 300 Hereford cows. He winters his calf crop and sells them as yearlings weighing 700-750 pounds. "I raise 500 acres of wheat primarily for pasture and the cattle really do well on it. For additional winter feed, I grow grain sorghums and alfalfa. The only feed I have to buy is protein supplement."

This sturdy, Western Oklahoma rancher, whose father made "The Run" in '89, is using 1949 livestock and conservation practices to make money today, while still saving his soil for tomorrow.



MEAT PACKERS AND PROVISIONERS

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## PULLING TOGETHER FOR GREATER SERVICE AND MUTUAL BENEFIT

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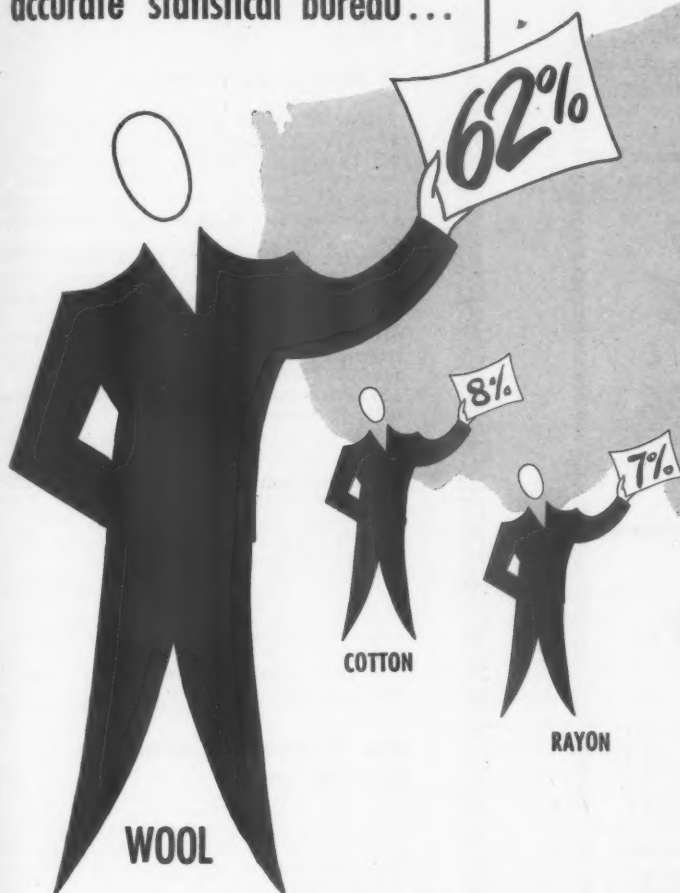


Men's Summer Suit preference

Facts revealed in nationwide survey by Bureau of Agricultural Economics...the Government's most important and accurate statistical bureau...

9 to 1 for  
over synthetics

**WOOL\***



*Cotton and Rayon Mixtures 8%*  
*Other Unidentifiable Fibers . 15%*



\*Including Wool Mixtures.

A comprehensive study just released by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the Department of Agriculture, disclosed that 62% of the men who own Summer Suits prefer wool.

These figures aren't guesstimates!

They're not the dreams of a publicity man!

They're dependable and factual, underwritten by one of the most reliable statistical organizations in the world.

This study, completed in July, 1948, projects the opinions of 50,000,000 MEN, 16 years of age and above, and was summarized by the Bureau, as follows:

“Wool was chosen mainly for two reasons, comfort and appearance, depending on the garment. The most frequent comments regarding the appearance of summer suits and extra trousers were that wool held a press or crease better than other fibers, and did not wrinkle or ‘muss up’ so easily.”

Stop to think, then, if you're a Manufacturer or a Retailer of men's clothing. Are you offering the public what it wants in Summer Suits this year? **THIS NEW SURVEY PROVES THE PUBLIC WANTS WOOL!**

Are you, the manufacturer, making summer clothing of wool?

Will you as a retailer have Wool Tropicals in stock to sell?

Or are you forcing substitutes on your customers that men everywhere have emphatically vetoed?

**If you'd give your customers what they want in summer clothes, KEEP ON THE WOOL WAGON!**

Tropical Worsteds (of real live wool) are tried and tested for performance and value!

Tropical Worsteds (of real live wool) are preferred!

Tropical Worsteds (of real live wool) are the choice of the men throughout the nation!

**THE WOOL BUREAU**

INCORPORATED

16 WEST 46th STREET • NEW YORK 19, N.Y.

May, 1949





## DOG MEN SAY:

*"Complete  
NUTRITION"*

H. R. HAYES, Weeping Willow Kennels, Moline, Ill., says: "We feed Friskies exclusively because there is no waste. Our dogs eat every bit of it. We find any dog fed on Friskies is in top condition at all times."

**NO WONDER** Friskies has been a favorite with leading dog men—breeders, trainers and veterinarians—for over 16 years. These men feed and recommend Friskies because they know it is a *complete* dog food, scientifically balanced to provide *all* the elements dogs are known to need for total nourishment, top condition and appearance.



## DOGS SAY:

*"Delicious  
TASTE"*

**ALL DOGS**—of every breed and every age—love Friskies "meaty" taste and smell. Two forms: Friskies Cubes, to gnaw like a bone; Friskies Meal, to eat like hash.

**FEED BOTH FOR VARIETY**

## EVERYBODY SAYS:

*"Amazing ECONOMY"*

Compare actual nutrition. In Friskies you get high food value per penny of cost. It's the most economical type of dog food, because no costly supplements are required.

**Feed and Recommend Friskies for Complete Nourishment, Convenience and Economy**

**FREE BOOKLET**—Send for "How to Feed and Care for Your Dog." Address: Friskies, Box 2035, Dept. Y, Los Angeles 36, California.



KEEP YOUR DOGS FRISKY  
WITH

**Friskies**

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A Division of Carnation Company

5 SIZES: 50, 25, 10, 5, 2 lbs.

## THE COVER

Photograph by Miss Mary MacLellan of Ellensburg, Washington.

## The Cutting Chute

### South Dakota Association Featured

Members of the Western South Dakota Sheep Growers Association have recently received an attractive souvenir of their 1948 convention. Prepared by John Morrell & Company, one of whose packing plants is located at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, it tells a pictorial story of convention days, the 9th and 10th of December, 1948. Vice President Foster of the Morrell Company thanks the South Dakota members for their help and cooperation during 1948 in a statement in the souvenir.

### A Good Safety Measure

The Livestock Sanitary Committee of Sioux Falls, Iowa, is conducting its third safety program among livestock truck operators. Truckers who haul at least 25 loads of livestock from farms to market from May 1st to November 1st this year are eligible.

In the 1948 event 249 truck operators out of 1,151 enrolled in the project handled their livestock without any cripples or deaths and the saving was around \$142,000. If all the truckers had made a similar record it is estimated that the saving would have been \$3,158,027.15.

The truckers in the 1948 safety program offered these suggestions:

1. "Take it easy" handling animals,—they do not understand pounding.
2. Quiet loading gets animals adjusted better in the trucks.
3. Sand is the best bedding. Wet it down for hogs on hot days. Avoid spraying cold water on backs of hogs.
4. Try to have only one class of livestock in each truck shipment.
5. Never load hogs with cattle without a strong partition between them.
6. Over crowding causes most losses in truck shipments.

### New Agricultural Counsel For Food Chains

Dr. Roger B. Corbett, College Park, Maryland has recently been appointed agricultural counsel of the National Association of Food Chains. He succeeds C. B. Denman of Farmington, Missouri, who is retiring after 12 years in that position. Mr. Denman represented livestock on the Federal Farm Board from 1929 to 1933 and pioneered in the development of farm co-operatives. He was also president of the National Livestock Marketing Association at the time he accepted the position with the National Association of Food Chains.

### Member-Owned P.C.A.'s

Five Production Credit Associations in the 12th Farm Credit district are now completely owned by their members; that is,

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they have retired the Government's investments in their capital structure, reports the Farm Credit Journal, recently issued by the Farm Credit Administration of Spokane, Washington. They are: The Klamath P.C.A. at Klamath Falls, Oregon which has just recently reached the point of complete member ownership; Eastern Idaho P.C.A. at Pocatello; the Idaho Livestock P.C.A. at Boise; the Montana Livestock P.C.A. at Helena and the Northwest Livestock P.C.A. at Portland, Oregon.

There are 30 P.C.A.'s in the 12th district with a total membership on December 21, 1948 of 17,445. During 1948 they made 11,289 loans for an aggregate amount of \$86,932,722. As of December 31st there were 6,818 loans on the books for \$31,165,806.

### U. P. Aims to Cut Freight Losses

A campaign to reduce freight losses and damage is being carried on this year by the U. P. Railroad Freight Claim Department. The attention of all employees connected with handling of freight is being directed by 12 posters—a new one each month—set up at freight offices, yard offices, and other strategic points, to ways and means of preventing such losses. The country's annual freight loss and damage bill is said to be about \$100,000,000.

### Objective: New Stadium for the National Western Stock Show

Western stockmen are being asked to contribute to the erection of a new stadium for the National Western Stock Show. The city of Denver has pledged \$2,000,000 and a drive is on to raise another \$600,000 through subscriptions. It is in the raising of the rest of the necessary funds—\$150,000—that stockmen are being given an opportunity to participate.

Recognition of donors is to be made by bronze tablets on stadium seats or boxes.

Checks may be made payable to the City of Denver Stock Show Stadium Fund and sent to the Municipal Stock Show Stadium Campaign, 308 Enterprize Building, 829 15th Street, Denver, Colorado.

Contributions made to this fund, it is claimed, are deductible from your Income Tax.

### Corriedale Show and Sale

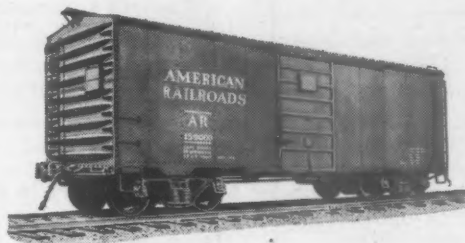
"Indications at present are that we will have a very successful All-American Corriedale Show and Sale in San Angelo, Texas on July 21st and 22nd," writes Secretary Rollo E. Singleton, of the American Corriedale Association.

"Recent beneficial rains over a large part of the sheep country in Texas will create a real demand for rams."

### "Dog Mange Control"

Tests conducted at the Corn States Serum Company plant at Omaha, Nebraska, indicate that "common mange, and many cases of red mange, of dogs can be controlled with one or more treatments of 0.25 percent benzene hexachloride. 0.08 percent heptaklor, or 0.25 percent chlordane."

The dogs treated—28 in number—were of various sizes and breeds. The article reporting the tests which appeared in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medi-



*and the  
most thrifty*

**The most popular car in America!**



Yes, that's it—the familiar freight car, which brings you most of the things you eat, wear, and use.

It does its vital job for you so thriftily that it carries freight for charges which average only about 1½ cents for moving a ton a mile—taking all kinds of freight over all distances.

When the war ended, these charges were no higher—and in many cases were lower—than when war began back in 1939. But prices and wages kept climbing until freight rates had to go up.

Railroad rates, though, went up later than other prices. By the time of the first small increase in freight rates, in the middle of 1946, the average level of other prices had already gone

up more than 40 per cent above 1939.

And freight rates have gone up *less* than the average percentage increase of other prices—in fact, only about half as much.

So railroad freight charges now represent an even smaller fraction of the prices you pay for the things you buy than they did before the war.

Today, the railroad freight car is not only the most essential car in America—it is also the car that provides the world's thriftiest transportation.

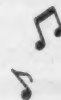
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Wyoming Wool Growers Association  
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cal Association last August, suggests that further research should be done to ascertain the most favorable dilution of each chemical and the most effective length of time for holding the dogs in the dip, as well as the effects of repeated treatments.

## Junior Producers Make Good Returns At Grand National

4-H and FFA members (1,050) sold 609 lambs at the Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition in the San Francisco Cow Palace, April 9th to 14th at an average price of \$31.39 per hundred; 740 fat cattle at an average price of \$29.58 per hundred and 1,295 hogs at an average of \$22.22 per hundred.

## Aftosa Laboratory In Doubt

The establishment of a research laboratory to study foot-and-mouth disease is doubtful at this time. Congress passed legislation last year authorizing such a laboratory but no appropriation was made for it. Just recently a House Committee refused to include the necessary funds for such a laboratory in an appropriation measure. Reconsideration of this act has been asked of the committee by Robert J. Kleberg, president of the famous King Ranch of Texas.

## Breeders Honored by Students

The Lariat Club, whose regular members are animal husbandry students at Washington State College, sponsors student-breeder get-together banquet each year. To this year's event (Spokane, February 3rd) 145 students and breeders came. The program, conducted by the student members of the club, included the awarding of honorary club memberships to four men outstanding in the animal industry: Hector McDonald, former faculty member of the State College of Washington, W. F. Wilhelm, President, Washington Swine Breeders Association, William Hislop of Hislop and Ruehl Sheep Company and H. R. Merman, buyer for Armour and Company in the Spokane area.

## Results of Utah's Lamb Feeding Project

The National Wool Grower is late in reporting results of Utah's Junior Lamb Feeding Project (January, 1949, page 36).

The lambs fed by these youthful operators were sold at auction at the Salt Lake Union Stock Yards on January 27th. A total of 2,325 lambs made an average price of \$23.65. The average weight was 99.65 pounds.

Grand champion pens of lambs were shown by Larry Huber, a 4-H member of Lapoint; Ross Bradford, Spanish Fork, F.F.A. member, and Keith Bradford, Spanish Fork young Farmer.

The project was directed by Gale Smith of the Production Livestock Marketing Association to create more interest in lamb feeding in Utah.

# Buy Bonds

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VOLUME XXXIX

NUMBER 5

MAY, 1949

414 Pacific National Life Building  
Salt Lake City 1, Utah  
Telephone No. 3-4483

J. M. Jones  
Irene Young

Editors

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**—Payment of dues in the National Wool Growers Association includes a year's subscription to the National Wool Grower. Dues and subscriptions are received along with state association dues by the secretaries shown for the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. To non-members \$5.00 per year. Entered as Second Class Matter, January, 1918, at the Post Office at Salt Lake City, Utah, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103. Act of October 8, 1917, authorized August 23, 1918.

# It's The Point of View

## Wool Prices

FOR the past two weeks or so, an effort has been made through all possible sources to determine just how much for certain classification, grade and type of wool, prices have decreased, and from every source comes a different story, apparently due to the point of view or the interest of the one queried.

Accurate figures are difficult to obtain. Accurate information from correspondents of different publications is even more difficult. That there has been a softening in the wool market generally is recognized, particularly in the foreign market on burry and defective wools and wools of lower grade but apparently reservations can be held as to the extent in these breaks. Wishful thinking on the part of many who want to "bear" the market has no doubt affected many of the reports.

The London sale closing April 8th, covered by a reliable reporting firm is not as bearish as many statements indicate. April prices compared to January, February and March do not show an alarming picture from the standpoint of the growers. For example, good average fleeces, 64s to 70s, in the recent London sale sold approximately 2.4 percent over earlier figures this year. Good average fleeces 60-64s, 2.8 percent lower; good average fleeces 58-60s, 2 percent lower; 56s, .1 percent lower; and 50s, 7 percent lower. But none of them show any heavy percentage decline.

Australian wool, type 77 (64-70s) cost and freight paid in bond, clean, on April 16th, was quoted at \$1.45 to \$1.50, compared with \$1.38 in March 1948 and a high on February 26, 1949, of \$1.84 to \$1.90. Half-blood wools (60s) type 65 New Zealand, on April 16, were quoted as above at from \$1.09 to \$1.15, compared to \$1.08 in February 1948, and a high in January 1949 of \$1.45 to \$1.49. New Zealand type 79 (56-58s) on April 16 was quoted from 92 cents to 96 cents on the above basis, compared with 82 cents in March 1948 and a high of from \$1.28 to \$1.33 in January 1949. These types show considerable decline on April 16th from the all-time high, but are still considerably higher than a year ago.

Many interests continue to "bear" the price of the raw material. This is quite natural, but there is another factor which needs some airing and the main reason it isn't done is because it isn't popular, and that is—labor cost. This is the cost item that is really high compared to raw material in any period one wants to choose. Quite recently it was determined that no Government contracts could be let to a manufacturer who paid less than \$1.05 per hour for his labor. What's the difference in the Government telling a manufacturer he has to pay so much a pound to the producer of his raw wool for Government contracts? Now who is being subsidized? Seriously, where is all of this subsidization, regimentation and regulation going to end? This again is a point of view, but there is a much more practical way, and that is an equitable tariff.

The above is far from the original subject, but of great importance. The point is, the wool market has not slipped nearly as badly as some would lead us to believe and there is not too much in the picture to cause great concern except human psychology and lower tariffs affecting manufacturer as well as producer.

## DISASTER AREAS DESIGNATED

Utah, parts of Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and Texas were designated by Secretary of Agriculture Brannan on May 3rd as disaster areas. This means that disaster loans (see above) are available to eligible farmers or stockmen in those areas.

The counties not included in Idaho are Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Shoshone, Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce and Lewis. In Wyoming the only countries designated are Sweet water, Uinta, Carbon, Albany, Natrona, Laramie, Goshen, Niobrara, Weston, Converse, Crook, Campbell, Sheridan, Johnson and Platte.

The Wool Grower has not received information as to the areas covered in Colorado and Texas.

## Disaster Loans

Considerable concern has been expressed as to the efficiency the Government would exercise in handling disaster loans for livestock. Many interested commercial institutions have expressed the feeling that red tape and Government regulation would bog down the procedure and benefits would be slight under the bill providing disaster loans, which was signed by the President on April 6.

It should be said for the Farmers Home Administration that in about 12 days after the President had affixed his signature authorizing disaster loans (Public Law 38), the administration had the loan policies and procedure in the mail. It is hoped and anticipated that where the need for these loans exists the interest in doing a good, efficient job will continue.

Here are some of the highlights of the disaster loan policies and procedures. The purpose is to extend credit to farmers and stockmen in designated disaster areas who have suffered damage as a result of production disaster and who are unable to obtain credit required to carry on farming or livestock operations from banks, cooperative lending agencies, and others. The Secretary of Agriculture designates the disaster areas.

Disaster loans may be made for the purchase of feed, seed, fertilizer, materials for pest control, for essential farm and home operating expenses, purchase of livestock, farm and home equipment or the repair thereof, refinancing of indebtedness secured by liens on properties, refinancing of unsecured debts negotiated during or after the disaster, and for other purposes.

Disaster loans bear 3 percent interest per annum on the unpaid balance. Liens on chattel property can run no longer than 10 years; on real estate, not to exceed 20 years.

State directors are authorized to approve loans up to \$12,000; field representatives, up to \$5,000; and county supervisors, up to \$2,500. Loans in excess of \$12,000 must be documented and submitted to the national office for review along with borrower's statement of proposed operations and debt-paying ability.



Expeditious handling of all loans has been promised, including those in excess of \$12,000.

Applications for disaster loans should be made through the F. H. A. office servicing the county in which the borrower lives. The location of such office will be known by county agents, county recorders or other officials.

J. M. J.

### S-27—BASQUE LAW

S-27, introduced by Senator McCarran of Nevada, "for the relief of certain Basque aliens," was signed by President Truman on April 19th. It permits 48 Nevada Basques named in the bill to remain permanently in the United States. These Basques came into this country under temporary permits as sheepherders.

Similar bills, S-1192 and S-204 introduced by Senator Miller of Idaho for himself and Senator McCarran of Nevada, have not yet been reported out by the Judiciary Committee.

## National Forest Committee

WOOL growers' associations in the 10 western national forest States have named their members on the National Forest Advisory Committee of the National Wool Growers Association. They are: Robert W. Lockett, Phoenix, Arizona; Arthur Barlow, Bishop, California; George J. Bailey, Walden, Colorado; T. C. Bacon, Twin Falls, Idaho; W. A. Denecke, Bozeman, Montana; E. R. Marvel, Battle Mountain, Nevada; L. E. Pearson, Pendleton, Oregon; Don Clyde, Heber, Utah; A. R. Bohoskey, Yakima, Washington; E. V. Magagna, Rock Springs, Wyoming.

The setting up of this Committee or board was recommended by the members of the National Association in their San Antonio convention this year. The first meeting of the Committee will be called by President Vaughn and at that time the chairman of the group will be selected. Four members also will be named to serve with four from the National Forest Advisory Committee of the American National Live Stock Association as a joint group on national forest affairs.

Through the National Forest Advis-

ory Committee it is hoped that a solution of some general and individual problems relating to the grazing use of the national forests may be worked out satisfactorily.

## Statement on D. D. T.

CAUTION against the use of DDT for control of insects on dairy cows was suggested by the Department of Agriculture in a release of March 24th this year. The reason given was that "even small amounts of DDT in a food such as milk . . . may prove harmful in time." In its place they recommend the use of methoxychlor. The same release also cautioned against feeding forage treated with DDT or other chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides to dairy cattle or other livestock being finished for slaughter.

Considerable alarm apparently was aroused in the minds of the general public, and on April 1st the Federal Security Agency and the U. S. Department of Agriculture issued a statement reassuring the public on that point.

They said in part:

"It is well recognized that DDT, like other insecticides, is a poison. This fact has been given full consideration in making recommendations for its use. There is no evidence that the use of DDT in accordance with the recommendations of the various Federal agencies has ever caused human sickness due to the DDT itself. This is despite the fact that thousands of tons have been used annually for the past four or five years in the home and for crop and animal protection. However, minor toxic symptoms may be produced by kerosene and various solvents used in DDT and practically all other insecticidal mixtures.

"Statements that DDT is responsible for causing the so-called 'virus X disease' of man and the 'X disease' of cattle are totally without foundation. Both of these diseases were recognized before the utilization of DDT as an insecticide.

"The Food and Drug Administration has not prohibited the use of DDT in spraying dairy cattle and barns. The Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act requires the Food and Drug Administration to insure that the food supply of the American people does not contain any poisonous or deleterious substance that is not necessary in the production of the food. Studies by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine have shown that DDT when used on dairy cattle or when present on fodder fed to dairy cattle may appear in the milk. They also say that DDT in small quantities can be detected sometimes in milk, following ordinary use of the insecticide for fly control in dairy barns. Because of the vital importance of milk in the diet of infants, children and people of all ages, it is essential that proper precautions be taken to protect the milk supply. Modifications

of the recommendation made by the Department of Agriculture on the use of DDT on dairy cattle were made merely as a precautionary measure.

"There is no justification for public alarm as to the safety of the milk supply from the standpoint of DDT contamination."

The issuance of this statement followed a meeting attended by representatives of various groups in the Department of Agriculture, of the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army Department, the Federal Security Agency, the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery of the Navy, and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

## SHEEPMEN'S CALENDAR

### Conventions and Meetings

August 24-25: Executive Committee, National Wool Growers Association and American Wool Council, Salt Lake City, Utah.

October 17: Columbia Sheep Breeders Association of America, Minot, North Dakota.

October 25-27: Wyoming Wool Growers Association, Rawlins.

November 17-18: California Wool Growers Association, San Francisco.

November 28-30: Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Association, San Antonio.

December 5: Colorado Wool Growers Association, Denver.

December 6-9: National Wool Growers Association, Denver, Colorado.

### Shows

June 8-10: Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, Salt Lake City, Utah.

October 7-15: Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Portland.

October 28-November 6: Grand National Livestock Exposition, San Francisco, California.

November 12-16: Ogden Live Stock Show, Ogden, Utah.

November 26-December 3: International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago.

### 1950:

January 17-19: National Western Stock Show, Denver.

### Ram Sales

July 14: National Montadale Show & Sale, Mexico, Mo.

July 21-22: All American Corriedale Show and Sale, San Angelo, Texas.

July 25: Northern Colorado Hampshire Sheep Show and Sale, Greeley.

July 30: Hampshire, Buck and Doe Dispersion Sale, E. B. Thompson Ranch, Milan, Mo.

August 3: Idaho Ram Sale, Filer.

August 11-12: New Mexico Ram Sale, Albuquerque.

August 19: Oregon Ram Sale, Pendleton.

August 22-23: National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City, Utah.

September 7: Colorado State Ram Sale, Denver.

September 21: Idaho Purebred Sheep Sale, Idaho Falls.

September 24: Pocatello, Idaho, Range Ram Sale.

September 29: Surplus Ram and Ewe Sale, U. S. Experiment Station, Dubois, Idaho.

October 18-19: National Columbia Show and Sale, Minot, North Dakota.

November 14: American Suffolk Sheep Society, Suffolk Ewe Sale, Ogden.

November 14: Columbia Ram and Ewe Sale, Ogden.

December 3: International Hampshire Sheep Breeders Bred Ewe Sale, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

December 3: North American Suffolk Sheep Breeders Bred Ewe Sale, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

# Wool Growers' Position on Agricultural Program

Statement of President Howard Vaughn, National Wool Growers Association,  
Before House Committee on Agriculture, May 2, 1949

A preliminary draft of the position to be taken by the National Wool Growers Association on the long-range agricultural program before the House Agricultural Committee was sent by President Vaughn to all members of the Association's Legislative Committee for suggestions and comments, and the formal draft of the statement was prepared on the basis of the Committee's reactions.

**T**HE wool growers of the United States appreciate this opportunity to sit in on the discussions aimed at the development of a proper livestock program for our Government. For we wish to be considered as citizens first and wool growers afterwards. During the past ten years a drop of 40 percent in sheep production in this country is indisputable evidence that sheepmen can and will do something else when sheep growing becomes economically untenable. You must agree that the very nature of our business has made us not only independent in thought but vocationally versatile.

We do now present ourselves here today to say to you that unless a change in economic prospect and Government attitude is accomplished soon this country will presently find itself with no wool producing industry worth practical consideration. We do now contend, as we have on numerous occasions in the last five years that Government should take a stand on the wool producing industry and then hold to its position. We are sure that the greatest single factor contributing to the reduction in numbers of U. S. sheep has been the recent vacillating attitude of Government on matters fundamental to profitable wool production. This attitude convinces possible new producers that some other industry would yield surer returns.

In this discussion we propose:

First, to establish the position in which the wool growing industry now finds itself.

Second, to consider the latest administration proposals as set up in the current program of the Secretary of Agriculture.



President Howard Vaughn

Third, to answer the questions listed by Chairman Pace (House Agriculture Committee), relative to the use of Government support for the sheep industry.

As fundamental to this consideration, we ask you to establish in your minds a clear distinction between an industry such as ours which is important to the country but currently in deficiency production and those other industries involved in your program which are in imminent danger of oversupply. Moreover, there is no prospect for an increase in sheep production in the foreseeable future, and this must be considered in the light of the statements by economists, Government investigators and defense authorities that a minimum industry which would be desirable here would be one capable of producing not the current 233,924,000 pounds of wool, but at least 360,000,000 pounds of shorn wool.

The very natural question arises, "How did we get that way?" Why is the sheep industry important to the country and why has it declined in vol-

ume during the time when other industries have increased?

If all the land in the United States were like your garden and there were other fabrics with the same qualities as wool it might be hard to justify a sheep industry. But neither of those statements are true. The vast western ranges comprise 800,000,000 acres. About 90 percent of this area is usable mainly for grazing purposes. This can be made useful to humanity only through the medium of cattle or sheep. Since much of this area is not profitable for cattle production, it follows that sheep alone can gather and convert its resources into usable products. A similar condition in lesser extent exists in every State. In the Middle West and East and South there are native forages and crops, both planted and volunteer which only sheep can harvest efficiently. Now bring into your thinking the fact that less than 5 percent of lamb meat consumed in the United States has been produced from grain and 95 percent from pasture and roughage and you are forced to the conclusion that a sheep industry of considerable extent is necessary, if for nothing else, merely to prevent extensive waste in our agricultural economy.

Then consider wool. I do not need to tell this Committee that wool is absorbent, elastic, warm in winter, cool in summer, etc., and that no other fabric, synthetic or otherwise, has these items so important to health to as great a degree as wool. Add to this picture the fact that modern science has largely eliminated the few old-time objections to wool use and it is easy to see why our people in greatly increasing numbers, as well as our Army and Navy purchasing departments, are insisting on wool as a basis for much of their clothing.

Now what has caused the recent fading out of the sheep industry? This is the most important information which we who have been through actual sheep operations of the last three decades can give to you who are planning the setup for the future. This rise in sheep population from 1910 to the maximum of 48,000,000 in 1942 was accomplished



under the following pertinent conditions:

1. A tariff which was intended to, and within reasonable limits did, equalize the cost of production of wool here with that in other wool producing countries that compete for our wool market, and

2. Almost a complete absence in Government not only of actual regulations limiting production but even of talk concerning the limiting of production. It was just assumed that nothing should stand in the way of making available for human use whatever resources we had which sheep could use best. This was very important to us who were in business, because sheep raising is not something that can be turned on and off at will by the day or month, or even by the year. When you're in, you're in for better or worse and for a considerable time. When you're out, you're out until you can reassemble a proper combination of capital, feed conditions and assured labor on a fairly permanent basis. In fact, it has been the historic pattern of sheep enterprises that they have learned to adjust fairly well to the rigors of climate and the fluctuations of price changes in a free economy, but they stand completely unnerved and helpless when Government frequently and arbitrarily changes the factors on which their possibility of profit and often even the preservation of their life's savings depend.

Think now what has happened since the peak years of our sheep population.

1. There has been a reduction of 25 percent in the tariff on wool. This is exactly the opposite of what should have been done to stimulate sheep production, because since 1941 the costs of producing wool in the United States have increased faster than in competitive countries. Nothing has been done to compensate for this loss. As a matter of fact, prominent Government spokesmen have indicated further tariff reduction on wool. Considerable sheep production has been lost here.

2. During the war there were ceilings on meat and wool prices. It is true there were subsidies which partially compensated, but the subsidies were limited compensation when compared to the vastly increased costs of labor and supplies. Those costs are still with us. More production has fallen by the wayside on this score.

3. Then there was talk by Govern-

ment officials promoting the fantastic idea of exclusive grain diets and there has been a consistent attitude of Government support of grain production but a consistent refusal to list wool as a basic commodity. But no one with even a superficial knowledge of the position of the industry in over-all U. S. economy can deny that from the standpoint of our consumers and our military forces it is truly a basic commodity. Nevertheless, on one day we see government extolling the needs of a sizable wool industry and talking of means to increase production, on the next we witness removal by Government of the very features that make production possible together with statements by prominent officials that we should buy our wool abroad. No realistic sheepman could study the Government policy of the past 8 years and invest his money in sheep. Still more production was lost for this reason.

4. And to cap the climax, there has been a very considerable Government tendency of late years to use public lands for many purposes other than livestock and wool production. Because of the fact that around 50 percent of the beef cattle and sheep slaughtered in the United States have historically been developed on ranges, it is easy to see what a revolutionary result this new policy is having on meat and wool production. We simply cannot afford to expand production in the face of this policy. If the Government or the people continue to establish policies which limit the use of the grass that grows on our vast western areas, all we can say is they will have to do with a much reduced sheep industry.

But we did not come here to lament the past. Nor have we come primarily to criticize the Government for doing the things which I have just related. Please believe this to be a truly impartial, non-political and factual listing of the pertinent deterrents to our industry expansion. All of these changes have been the result of a new philosophy of the relation of individuals to Government, the exact effect of which no one yet knows. Many wool growers in the past did not support these changed philosophies from the standpoint of practical use of national resources. Many do not now, and it is farthest from our thought to issue anything in the nature of an ultimatum. But, since we are closest to the situation and feel that we understand the temperament of those who could be

looked to for increased sheep production, we beg leave to say that your Committee by its attitude toward and action on the long-range sheep program will determine what sort of a sheep industry we as producers will be able to develop in the future.

Let me now list the principles on which we find ourselves in agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture in his announcement of April 7th. We believe there is plenty of mutual ground on which to build a workable program for an expanding sheep industry.

We agree that agriculture and especially livestock agriculture must be a partner in the making of any worthwhile prosperity.

We agree that a large livestock population constitutes a reserve strength for our country.

We agree that American business depends on agriculture for raw materials and business is starved if farm production goes down.

We agree that as long as the current international trade relations are continued, Government must have some authority to support important commodities and meet national emergencies.

We agree that such programs should be planned to cope with problems currently in sight.

We agree that price supports now appear as the farmer's and livestock man's only equivalent of the laboring man's minimum wage, social security and collective bargaining arrangements. This is especially true in our industry because the minimum wages, social security and collective bargaining arrangements of business actually establish for us, directly or indirectly and without recourse by us, the cost of the items of labor, feed and technical supplies which our industry required.

And we agree that Congress should determine at least in general what products should be supported as well as at what approximate level the support should be. But we think that the details of support technique can be most practically set up by conferences of Department of Agriculture officials appointed to administer the particular program, with representatives of the industries involved.

**Now, in spite of those areas of general agreement which we think are broad enough to cover actions that**



would increase sheep production in the United States, we see nothing in the Secretary's statement of April 7 or in his subsequent remarks before this Committee that is definite enough to encourage livestockmen to grow more sheep. Speaking concretely, the Secretary was asked by one of you "What about wool?" His reply was "We'll take a good look at that later." We want to emphasize here again that ever since 1940 Government has been taking a series of "good looks" and sheep production has dwindled from 46,000,000 to 28,000,000. Do we want to "fiddle while Rome burns?"

In his letter inviting us to appear here today, Chairman Pace raised seven specific questions. We now desire to answer those questions in the light of our statement on the condition of our industry and the points of agreement which appear possible with the program of the Secretary of Agriculture.

1. Do livestock producers want price support? Our answer is that sheepmen see no alternative to some type of price support or compensation payment if liquidation is to be stopped and production placed at an optimum level.

2. What should be the level of support? It should compensate for tariff already lost, balance any tariff reductions in the future and set up at least a token incentive so that there would be no doubt about future Government attitude toward maintaining a wool producing industry.

3. Should price support be mandatory or discretionary with the Secretary of Agriculture? It should be mandatory until production reaches 360,000,000 pounds of wool per year, which is the minimum amount considered permissible for the safety and economic stability of the country.

4. What type of controls should be set up to regulate the production or marketing of sheep and wool in order for producers to be eligible for price support? There should be no controls of any kind unless and until wool production in the United States arrives at the 360,000,000 pound yearly level. If and when production reaches this level, we should have another look at the support program.

5. Should price support be carried out through loans, purchases, direct payments to producers, or through some other methods? We believe that among the price support methods men-

tioned by the Secretary of Agriculture, there is sufficient variation to permit arriving at a simple and workable support operation by consultation of leaders of our industry with the officials of the Department of Agriculture who may be designated to administer the program.

Just for example, consider this. Here is an industry which is necessary to the country, which is in deficiency production, which is actually starving because its historic supports have been removed. It would cost Government less to support it than in the case of any other industry of anything like equal importance to the country. We suggest that if there is any question of the desirability of production payments now is the very best opportunity for a trial test. It should suffice to stipulate here however that the program finally arrived at pass these tests:

1. It should actually stimulate wool production.

2. It should be simple enough to be understood both by producers and consumers of wool.

3. It should allow a minimum of possibility for sidetracking Government support to anyone not actually responsible for production and a maximum of support to the most efficient producers.

In summary then, if our statement has seemed a little at variance with

your already-thought-out ideas of commodity support, it is because our industry is in a very different current position from other industries of similar importance to the American people.

The practical question that confronts us is not how small an outlay from the Treasury will suffice to bolster the income of the people now engaged in producing sheep. For the long-time benefit of everyone, the much more pertinent question is: What sort of a Government policy will stimulate an early increase in sheep and wool production?

Such a policy must compensate for the removal of supports upon which the industry was originally built.

Such a policy must indicate at least by token support now and more substantial support if depression comes that the Government actually considers the industry important to the country.

Above all, such a policy must carefully desist from setting up situations that discourage sheepmen from increasing production.

If Government will do these simple and relatively inexpensive things, we of the industry are convinced that greater production will result with surer returns to ourselves and at the same time lower prices to consumers.

## World Research on Wool To Be Coordinated

DR. JOHN H. DILLON, Director of Research of the Textile Research Institute and the Textile Foundation, left early in April for England, Sweden, Holland and France for a month of conferences with directors of laboratories in the British Isles and on the Continent which are engaged in various important phases of wool research.

Dr. Dillon's study of the progress being made in wool research in important world research centers is the first step in a proposed interchange of scientists and technicians between European laboratories and the Textile Research Institute at Princeton, New Jersey, as part of the world research program recently initiated at the Institute.

This research project, which for the first time is endeavoring to discover

methods of improving textures made of all wool by a combination of fundamental research into the physical and chemical properties of wool and by practical manufacturing processes, is being conducted with the cooperation of The Wool Bureau, comprising the International Wool Secretariat, and the American Wool Council, and by important American wool textile interests.

The project is also being supported by the United States Department of Agriculture both with funds supplied under the Research and Marketing Act and through an important collateral research program at the Western Research Laboratories at Albany, California.

# The Brannan Agricultural Program



Charles F. Brannan, Secretary of Agriculture

**T**HE Administration's long-awaited agricultural program was presented by Secretary Brannan of the Department of Agriculture at a joint session of the Senate and House Agricultural Committees on April 7th. Since that time, Mr. Brannan has been questioned in detail by the House Committee on several full hearing days.

No bill embracing the Secretary's proposals has yet been introduced in Congress, but one is reported as being drafted.

At present, the House Committee is holding to a strict schedule of appearances in its hearings. President Howard Vaughn will make the presentation for the National Wool Growers Association on Monday, May 2nd. (We hope to have his statement in time to include it in this issue.)

The Brannan program has not met with wholehearted approval from the big farm organizations, with the exception of the Farmers' Union. General criticism is lodged against the regimen-

tation of agriculture and the huge cost of the program as it is proposed. The Secretary, both in his formal statement and in his cross examination by the House Committee, has not given anything very concrete about the expected total cost of the program.

The opposition of the American Farm Bureau Federation to the proposed program was placed before the House Agricultural Committee by President Allan B. Kline on April 28th. For his group, he endorsed the Agricultural Act of 1948, which becomes effective the first of next year unless other legislation is enacted, but he asked for some revisions in it. The statement by the National Grange was scheduled for April 30th.

The National Farmers' Union approved the Brannan plan in the testimony of its President, James G. Patton, on April 27th.

## Meat Animals in Priority Group

Of great interest and encouragement to livestock men is the Secretary's recognition of the importance of meat production in his introductory statement on the need for a support program on agriculture.

"It is generally believed," he said, "that for the sake of keeping our resources permanently productive as well as to meet consumer needs, livestock production should be made a more important part of our agriculture. I agree with this. I also think the shift is not likely to take place as promptly and fully as necessary without the assistance of a well-adapted production and price adjustment program."

And beef cattle, hogs and lambs are included in the first priority or Group I commodities on which the full support price standard would be effective under the Secretary's plan. This list of priority commodities, in Secretary Brannan's opinion, should include at least these commodities: corn, cotton, wheat, tobacco, whole milk, eggs, farm chickens, and the meat animals—hogs, beef cattle and lambs.

On other commodities, the support would be along the same lines, but not necessarily at the same level, as those for the priority group to the extent that funds were available. Wool would come in this second class and its sup-

port, which on account of the tariff reductions and foreign importations is considered so necessary to a healthy wool growing industry, would be in a more-or-less uncertain position.

## Methods of Support

Under the Brannan plan, non-perishable commodities or those that can be stored, which account for about 25 percent of the total cash receipts from farm produce, would be supported through commodity loans and purchase agreements. On perishable products, which make up the other 75 percent of the cash receipts from farms, production payments would be made to the producer. Through this type of support—that is, production payments—the Secretary claims farmers would be given the necessary encouragement to maintain or increase production, while the law of supply and demand would operate so far as consumers are concerned.

However, the Secretary said that it might be necessary for the Government to purchase some perishable products outright in some instances, such as seasonal market gluts; also that sometimes the production payment plan could be employed to good advantage in connection with the storable or non-perishable commodities. The Secretary stated that in this connection he had wool in mind.

## Support Price Formula

Support in the Brannan plan is related to cash receipts rather than to net farm income. In setting up the formula that would be in effect for 1950, the Secretary has taken the cash receipts from farm marketings each year from 1939 through 1948 and divided it by the parity index (1939 to 1948 would be equal to 100) to ascertain the purchasing power of the cash receipts for the 10-year period. By this calculation, the purchasing power is figured at \$18,218,000,000. Multiplying that by the parity index for March 15th this year, or 144, the income support level is computed to be \$26,234,000,000; that is, it would take this much money as of March 15, 1949 to equal the average purchasing power in the 1939-48 period.

In determining the price support for



individual commodities, the ratio between the income support level of \$26,234,000,000 and the average cash receipts from farm marketings during the 10 years immediately preceding—that is, 1940-49—which have been estimated at \$20,980,000,000, is first computed. This ratio as of March 15, 1949 is 1.25.

Then the average price received by the farmer for any commodity during the 1940-49 period is multiplied by this ratio or adjustment figure of 1.25. For example, \$14.70 per hundredweight is given as the average price received for lambs during that 10-year period. Therefore, the price support standard for it is  $1.25 \times \$14.70$ , or \$18.40 per hundredweight. This would be \$2.40 above the support under the Agricultural Act of 1948.

For wool, the average price in the 1940-49 period is figured as 39.8 cents a pound, and the price support for it if authorized under the Brannan program would be  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times that, or 49.8 cents per pound, as against 43.4 cents under the present act.

For beef cattle, support available under the proposed program would be \$16.90, and for hogs, \$19.00.

In all instances except peanuts and potatoes, support prices available under the Brannan program would be larger than under the present Agricultural Act.

#### Limits

The Secretary limits support to production from family sized farms. This has been computed in terms of "comparative units"; that is, 7.77 bushels of wheat is considered the equivalent of 10 bushels of corn, etc.

For lambs, the unit would be .79 hundredweight; for wool, 29.32 pounds; for cattle, .86 hundredweight; for hogs, .76 hundredweight.

Eighteen hundred of these units, or about \$26,000 worth of produce in terms of current marketing prices, would be the extent of support available under the Brannan program for any farm, except where marketing agreements and quotas and acreage allotments are in operation.

From the Secretary's original statement it was concluded that a farmer would be able to receive support for only 1800 units, but under questioning by the House Agricultural Committee, Secretary Brannan made it plain that this limitation would not apply when marketing agreements or acreage allotments were in operation.

Applied to the sheep industry, the 1800 unit limit would mean that 142,200 pounds liveweight of lambs or the production, including replacements, from approximately 2500 breeding ewes, would be eligible for support, or 52,776 grease pounds of wool or the production from about 6,600 head of sheep. Production above these figures by any one operator would not be available for support under the program. In a combination of both wool and lambs, it would mean support on a flock of approximately 3000 head.

Latest Government figures show that 99.61 percent of farms and ranches have fewer than 2500 breeding ewes and produce 71 percent of all the wool and lamb. Better than 85 percent of all wool is produced by individuals running fewer than 6600 head of sheep, according to figures available.

Conservation is also tied into eligibility; that is, no farmer would be eligible unless he observed "minimum and sound soil conservation practices."

Broad powers would be given the Secretary of Agriculture under the Brannan plan. With his discretion would lie the setting up of support and production control programs for any agricultural commodity in addition to those listed in the priority group, and apparently it is contemplated that support programs would be in effect permanently rather than in times of emergency only.

While it was thought earlier that no action would be taken on a long-range agricultural program this year, opinion is growing that legislation will be enacted. Rumors are current that Congress will recess in July and reconvene in November again to get the job done.

## Genes, From Where?

By S. W. McClure

I hope our readers have mastered the very fine explanation of genes by Professor Kammlade in the February Wool Grower. As Kammlade says, he over-simplified it, and it is fortunate that he did, for there is much about the genes that man does not understand.

In point of size they must be in the class with the virus as no microscope has yet revealed one. Yet these all-powerful tiny genes control every feature that is transmitted from sire and dam to their offspring. They make men white or black or yellow. They make wool fine or coarse or long or short, all depending on what the sire or dam or both transmit to their offspring. But there is no way of telling the kind of gene or genes the parent will transmit until the offspring arrives. Fortunately those who use parents with outstanding desirable characteristics have a right to expect that "like will produce like or the likeness of some ancestor." That was what Professor F. R. Marshall taught and published in his books on animal breeding. It was the theory that accounts for most of the progress made in animal breeding in the past hundred years. It would still be all we needed to know about breeding if an old Austrian monk by the name of Mendel had not mused things up by crossing different varieties

of sweet peas and then getting all varieties of peas when he bred the crosses. He ought to have left them alone for we were getting along well enough on the old basis.

If we only knew the kind of genes each parent possessed or if we could run them over some kind of a grading machine and pick out the good from the bad, we could produce at once almost any kind of animal we desired. And there is just such a machine: It is the individual testing of each sire to determine the kind of offspring he produces. I wanted to breed Hampshire sheep with bare faces so I paid \$565 for a bare-faced ram and bred him to 100 ewes and got the woolliest-faced bunch of lambs I ever owned. All the genes he had evidently were woolly faced. But there are no accurate tests for sheep, hogs, or beef cattle. There are very accurate tests for dairy cattle, trotting horses, and running horses, as well as for chickens. By measuring the butter fat production of cows, the eggs laid by hens, and the speed of race horses, we soon learn the kind of genes transmitted by the parents. But a parent often produces but one or two champions. And we also learn that some of the very greatest genes show up in sires and dams where least ex-



pected and, vice versa. Let's have a look at some of these genes.

The highest-priced bull ever sold, at least in this country, was a Holstein calf. He brought \$106,000 at public auction. He had everything. His dam, grand dam, great grand dam and his sires for many generations had been high butterfat producers. He was the "dream" bull of the herd and certain to leave a long trail of world-record offspring to add to his lustre and fame. As an outstanding producer he proved a failure, and when he died his owner is reported to have said, "That's the best thing he ever did." Where were the great genes that all of his illustrious ancestors should have passed to him?

Here is another story with which the writer was personally familiar. Many years ago a successful range sheepman, George V. Leighton of Meridian, Idaho, having sold his sheep, went East and purchased a small herd of registered Holstein cattle. Among the number was a young white Holstein bull, by name, King Segis 10th. These were fairly well-bred cattle but nothing sensational. I later saw this bull, he was mean looking; pot-bellied; had stub horns; was lame in one shoulder, and was just as ornery as he looked. This fact was attested by the neighbors who from time to time used the shotgun to run him away, or so it is reported. Anyhow, about 1916 the Carnation Farms of Seattle, Washington, were engaged in establishing a Holstein dairy and as Mr. Leighton desired to retire, their manager visited the Leighton farm and purchased his entire Holstein herd. That is, all except this white Holstein bull. Mr. Leighton used his most persuasive argument to sell him but finally the Carnation manager told him he "would not accept him as a gift." With his herd sold, Mr. Leighton had no use for the bull so when he shipped the balance of the herd he just sent the old bull along to get shut of him. He was worth about \$20 for hamburger. When the herd arrived at Carnation, out of the car walked the old white bull. As these people did not want any one to see him they put him in the basement of the barn where he could be "heard but not seen." There he awaited the coming of the butcher. Among the cows purchased was an attractive daughter of this old bull. As she freshened, she was put on official test for milk and butterfat production. In a few weeks it was found that she was

producing more milk than any cow ever had produced. At the end of her year's test she had produced 37,381 pounds of milk, or more than any cow of any breed ever produced. And this record was not broken for 16 years, and then by a granddaughter of this same old bull. And more important still, two young bulls, sons of this same old bull, became the world's outstanding sires of butterfat producing cows. One of these bulls died when he had but 24 tested daughters. Those 24 daughters had the highest average butterfat production for any bull of any

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### LAMB PROMOTION NEWS

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Oscar Mayer & Company of Madison, Wisconsin, have joined the list of lamb slaughterers now making collections for the lamb promotion program. On March 31, John J. Madigan, General Livestock Procurement Manager of that firm, wrote: "We will immediately start collecting the 3/5 cent per head from growers . . . and remit in the usual way to the National Live Stock and Meat Board." Thank you!

This makes nine packers now co-operating in this program. (See list, April, 1949, W. G. page 12.)

Growers cooperate in this way:

When you sell your lambs, whether at the range or central market, instruct the purchaser to deduct 75 cents per car (3/5 cent per head in less than carload lots) to be remitted for the lamb education program and other worthwhile activities to the National Livestock and Meat Board.

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breed that had ever lived. This old bull, an outcast, mean to handle, lacking all signs of greatness, considered worthless by his new owners, was undoubtedly the most prepotent bull that ever was tested. He had the genes. Yet from whence did they come? Why their new power?

Another story. I consider the American Standardbred trotting horse the greatest creation of the breeder's art. The breeders of no other species of livestock have created so perfect an individual. The story of his making reads like a page from the New Deal. One hundred and twenty-five years ago no such breed existed or ever had.

Today we have a hundred horses that can pull a man and sulky a mile in two minutes, more or less, and can repeat the performance two or three times in an afternoon. There never had been any trotting horse genes so far as anyone knows. One hundred years ago our people had little to amuse themselves—few sports or games had been invented, even baseball as we know it was only an infant. The indoor sports were limited to poker playing and drinking Jamaica rum—whiskey then being unknown. The great outdoor sport was the racing of harness horses on the public roads and at county fairs. The road racing always took place on Sunday after church. The race horses were just the farm plugs that worked all week and raced all Sunday. Now and again one trotted a mile better than three minutes but only a few such.

Just then there was born at Chester, New York, a white-footed, white-faced stud colt. He carried the blood of what was then known as running horses. Finally this colt was named Hambletonian 10. He took his place as another country stud horse, although he did sire a few good harness horses. But he sired two sons, one of which made a new breed of horses. It is with one of these sons, George Wilkes, we shall here deal. Shortly before the Civil War there was a little road mare near Chester. She had plugged around at odd jobs until she became sore footed. Her breeding was totally unknown and forever remained a mystery. Dolly Spanker was her name. As she was worthless she was bred to this country stud horse, Hambletonian 10. The following spring Dolly found herself in a pasture behind a log barn. The day had come for Dolly to reproduce her kind. A raging blizzard was in progress but nature does not wait for sunny days. In this storm Dolly gave birth to a bay stud colt. Probably she realized his future greatness and died from shock. Anyhow, she died a few moments after the colt was born. The little orphan staggered around in the snow on spindly legs, chilled, and disgusted with what fate had meted out to him. The men of the farmstead took in the situation and decided to kill the little orphan, as they could not be bothered trying to raise him on the bottle. But wiser counsel prevailed. The women of the household, endowed with kindness and sympathy for the young of all species, took the situation in charge and decided to raise the orphan

on cow's milk. In that day it was the women who did the milking anyway. Legend tells us the little foundling was taken to the kitchen, warmed behind the kitchen stove, and given his first feed of cow's milk to which had been added a spoonful of Jamaica rum. Whether it was the motherly attention of the women folks, the drink of Jamaica rum, or milk derived from the family cow, we shall never know but the fact remains that this little orphan grew up to become the greatest sire of race horses that ever lived—George Wilkes. Probably there will never be another like him. As a race horse he was not himself too great a success but his sons and grandsons and their sons founded a new breed, the "Standardbred" harness horse.

It has been said that at one time 90 percent of the harness horses racing in America traced directly to this orphan colt. His offspring has been sold to Russia, Italy, France, Belgium and Sweden. This summer if you are down East some warm evening take a taxi out to one of the race tracks near any large city and watch the harness races under electric lights. Pick out any horse in any race and it's 90 chances to one that his pedigree leads directly to this same orphan, Geo. Wilkes.

From whence came his outstanding ability to sire great race horses when nothing like them had ever existed? Where did he get the genes that produced this marvel? Did they come from the little mare Dolly Spanker who seems to be without pride of ancestry, or did Hambletonian 10 pass them through his son, Geo. Wilkes, to tens of thousands of race horses? This may have been the case, for Hambletonian 10 had another son, Electioneer, who became the sire of a few very great race horses before the family passed out. But Electioneer had for a mother one of the greatest mares that ever lived. Anyhow Hambletonian 10 gets the credit, for quite a monument has been erected in his honor near Chester, New York.

I might go on and tell the story of Anxiety IV—the Hereford bull that revamped almost the entire Hereford population of America, but it would be just a repetition of the story of King Segis 10th—just another bull with master genes that, whether alone or in combination with other genes, worked a miracle.

Genes, the carriers of Heredity! Probably every week there marches up the chute to the bloody killing floor of each of our large packing houses, bulls, rams, boars, carrying in their reproductive organs hidden genes which, had they been discovered, would have so increased our production of animal products that the European Recovery Program would have been unnecessary.

#### A. J. KNOLLIN PASSES

Mr. A. J. Knollin, who served as treasurer, acting secretary, and then eastern vice president of the National Wool Growers Association during its early western history (1901-1919) died at his home in Walla Walla, Washington, on May 4, 1949.

### Rise In Marketing Costs

THE expenses of marketing cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, and lambs from producers to slaughtering plants or feedlots averaged 72 cents per hundred pounds in 1947 compared with 57 cents per hundred pounds in 1939 and 53 cents in 1932, a recent study by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics shows. The study is part of a larger project on marketing costs and margins supported by funds appropriated under the Research and Marketing Act.

During each year, transportation by both truck and rail accounted for more than 60 percent of the average expenses, and the services of marketing agencies and feed the rest.

These marketing expenses do not include either the value of the services of farmers in handling and selling their

livestock, or losses while the animals are in transit or at markets.

Marketing expenses usually change in the same direction as changes in prices farmers receive for livestock but the change is less proportionally and occurs more slowly. In 1947 marketing expenses averaged 3.5 percent of the average price per hundred pounds received by farmers for all livestock compared with 8.3 percent in 1939 and 13.5 percent in 1932. The relatively greater stability of transportation, labor, and other marketing costs works to the disadvantage of the farmer when livestock prices decline. On the other hand, the producer benefits during periods of rising livestock prices.

The table below shows how average marketing expenses varied by species and by markets. Marketing expenses per hundred pounds were higher for calves and sheep and lambs, than for cattle and hogs. On a per head basis, expenses for cattle and calves were highest. Variation among markets was largely due to differences in service performed.

The number of livestock hauled by truck increased considerably during the 15 years. In 1932, cattle shipped by truck to more than 60 terminal public markets made up a third of total receipts. By 1947, the proportion hauled by truck had doubled. During the same period, truck receipts of hogs at these markets increased from 50 percent to 70 percent of total hog receipts.

Preliminary estimates indicate that the expenses of marketing livestock during March 1949, averaged 70 cents per hundred pounds, 10 percent higher than in 1947. Expenses at markets increased about 4 percent, and expenses for transportation were up about 13 percent.

Edmund Farstad, B.A.E.

EXPENSES OF MARKETING LIVESTOCK PER HUNDRED POUNDS

	Cattle			Calves			Hogs			Sheep and lambs			All livestock combined		
	1947	1939	1932	1947	1939	1932	1947	1939	1932	1947	1939	1932	1947	1939	1932
	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.
Public markets .....	24	20	18	44	34	34	28	24	21	46	39	37	27	23	22
Auctions .....	30	22	19	48	26	22	43	22	19	45	31	26	35	22	19
Concentration yards .....	14	11	9	14	11	9	14	11	9	14	11	9	14	11	9
Local co-op. associations .....	18	15	10	18	15	10	18	15	10	18	15	10	18	15	10
Dealers .....	18	15	10	18	15	10	18	15	10	18	15	10	18	15	10
Average—All markets .....	24	20	17	32	24	26	23	19	18	34	28	30	26	22	20
Transportation .....	44	33	31	60	45	43	45	33	31	55	42	40	46	35	33
Total .....	68	53	48	92	69	69	68	52	49	89	70	70	72	57	52



# Your Central Markets

An Address before the 84th Convention

By A. Z. Baker, President American Stock Yards Association

**I**N the ten years prior to 1948 the sheepmen of this country saved an average of 29 million lambs a year, about 80 percent of which were slaughtered for human food, principally in federally inspected establishments. While the number of lambs saved last year was not more than 20 million, you still produce a lot of lambs for sale and you should be concerned with markets and marketing.

## Declining Volume Production

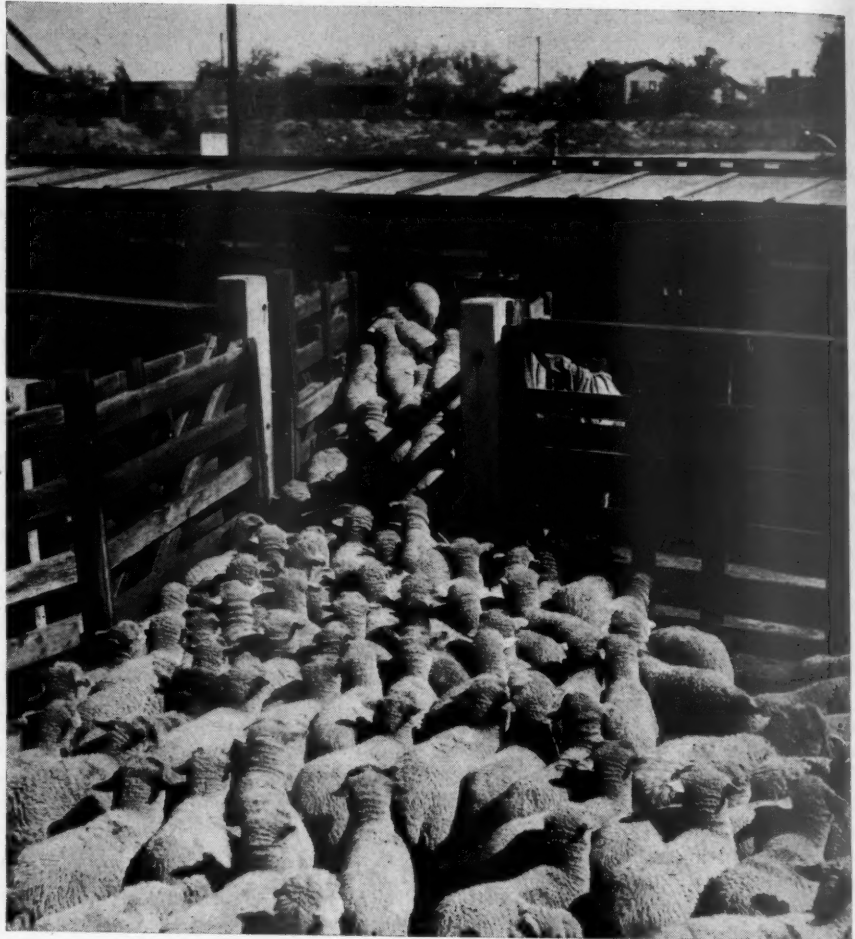
The volume of sheep production in this country has been declining for several years and has now reached the lowest level since the Civil War. At the beginning of 1948 the number on the farms and ranches and in feed lots was more than one-third less than at the peak which had been reached in 1942, and it is generally expected that the census as of the first of this year will be still lower. The Department of Agriculture has just announced that the number of sheep and lambs on feed for the slaughter markets on January 1 was 15 percent below last year and smallest since 1925. Contrasted with this comes the report from Australia that the country is riding to wealth on its more than a hundred million sheep, with an increase of nearly seven million this year.

The central markets are also concerned with this.

We would not attempt to advise you on matters relating to production, but we can perhaps contribute something to an understanding and appreciation of the functions of the central markets.

Rex Beresford, asking "How do you market your livestock?" in the February "Country Gentlemen," says, "There is much more to smart livestock marketing than calling a trucker or ordering a stock car. I'll hazard a guess that a lot of pretty efficient livestock producers, who apparently have forgotten that this is true, will be learn-it all over again before long."

"The livestock producer," he says, "has had a typical 'sellers market' through most of the war and post war years. During the past ten years —



Fat Lambs on Their Way to Market

the livestock producer's share of the consumer's meat dollar rose from around 35 cents in the late 30's to . . . the unheard of figure of 70 cents or better during 1947 . . . are we simple enough to expect such a situation will last?

"When meat supplies increase, or demand slackens, or both, and meat and livestock prices start down . . . our interest in livestock markets and marketing problems will rise once more."

I shall be happy if I am able to say anything today that may be helpful to you in planning and carrying out your marketing operations throughout the coming years and years. But I shall be still happier if, during these days

here together, you give me suggestions which will enable the markets I represent to render a more efficient and satisfactory service.

I am particularly interested to know if there are any conditions in the marketing picture at the public stockyards generally or at any of your particular markets which handicap your industry and call for correction of any sort.

I wonder if, in the last few years, you have given as much attention to the marketing of your sheep and lambs as that particular phase of your business merited or relatively as much as you have given to breeding, handling and management. I wonder, because generally in the last 10 years market-



ing has been taken for granted and no particular attention paid to it. I am convinced that the condition in which you find yourself today, and the conditions which will face you in the next 10 years, demand, and will demand that you develop sound policies in respect to marketing and give that part of your business the attention which it merits.

In these last 10 years, about 85 percent of the total slaughter of sheep and lambs was performed in Federally inspected slaughtering establishments.

Most of the Federally inspected plants are adjacent to public stockyards and all of them have access to the livestock offered for sale on these markets. And yet, in the last 20 years there has been a rather constant decline in the percentage of sheep and lambs bought on the public markets for slaughter under Federal inspection.

I am not trying to imply that a decline in production is either the cause or the effect of a decline in the percentage of livestock marketed on the public markets.

I am trying to point out, first, that a declining volume of production may be the result of prices received from the sale of sheep and lambs; and second, that a declining volume at the price-determining markets may have effect on the price.

## Marketing

Since you raise lambs for sale you must of necessity give attention to some of the preliminary phases of marketing, such as the selection of your market, the employment of your sales agency, and the safety of service, of trading conditions and of return of the proceeds of your sales.

Whether you choose to sell at your own farm or ranch, at an intermediate local market, or at one or more of the large central markets, you will weigh the respective advantages in the way of facilities provided, convenience afforded, services rendered, outlets reached and prices expected.

## Selling

You must perform or employ the services incident to marketing and the sale of your livestock. If you perform the selling services yourself, you must balance the convenience and the suitability of facilities and the possible saving in the cost of service, against

the effectiveness of that kind and place of selling.

Since you produce lambs for sale, the selling service is of primary importance. Selling falls into three general classes:

(1) "Home" sales. Many sales are made by professional producers who perform the selling service on a non-professional or "incidental" basis. I am not suggesting that a producer may not in many instances be superior to the professional salesman, any more than I would suggest that the amateur sportsman may not excel over the professional. I merely want to suggest that one who is engaged professionally and almost exclusively in production could not be expected to be as well informed or even as skilled in selling as one who is engaged professionally and exclusively in buying or selling.

(2) Competitive sales. Competition is one of the most effective guarantees of fair prices; provided, of course, competition can be guaranteed. If we could assume that we would always have maximum competition, we might expect generally satisfactory prices from competition alone.

(3) Competitive sales with agency representation. It seems to me that maximum assurance of fair prices can come to the producer from the employment of qualified sales agents, operating under competitive conditions, combining not only the competition which is so essential, but the expert knowledge, experience, skill, trading ability and judgment of qualified sales agents to judge whether and when reasonable offers have been made, and to determine when, where and at what price sales will be made.

Many, perhaps all, of you are qualified to sell your sheep, but you are better qualified to produce them. That is your highest and best calling. The man who makes a windmill or an automobile is not the man who customarily comes to make a sale. And the butcher who dresses your lambs is not the man who goes out to sell the product.

I am always puzzled at the willingness of some producers to sell their lambs to non-competitive buyers, in some cases on contract for future delivery and in other cases at time of shipment. Your lambs feel the competition of your neighbor's lambs. You want competition among sales agents to insure their effort to merit your business. And you assuredly "shop

around" when you are buying other services or commodities. Competition is the very life of business in this country and yours in no exception.

But competition alone falls short of the ideal unless the seller is as well informed and as skillfully represented as the buyer. The processor employs buyers of the highest skill, experience and ability, trains and provides them with a wealth of information about conditions affecting demand and supply locally, nationally and even internationally. The system of agency selling on the central market undertakes to provide the same sort of service for the sellers.

The weakness as well as the strength of our price determining markets is the freedom of the individual seller or buyer to use it or not. If too many producers choose to sell too many lambs, particularly the choice quality lambs, off the market, obviously the attractiveness and effectiveness of the market is lessened, and if too many buyers go elsewhere for too many lambs it is equally apparent that the market suffers. Not only does the particular market, and the sales made thereon suffer, but the entire area and all those who use it as a basis for their sales suffer in like degree.

One of the criticisms that has come to me is an alleged lack of sufficient competition on some of your large central markets; and yet I have observed rather recently an inclination on the part of buyers to leave a market and seek supplies elsewhere because of too much buyer competition.

While there is a concentration of lamb buying in a relatively few hands with perhaps 80 percent of the total lamb slaughter being done by four or five large organizations with national distribution channels, there is a large number of independent buyers furnishing substantial competition, if that demand is only tapped. It is the function of the central markets to reach all potential buyers. Certainly they are constantly trying to broaden the number and volume of the outlets.

One of the difficulties of any free competitive market including livestock markets is to devise a fair priority of bidding. Since the first bidder obviously has an advantage there is a constant contest for first place and an increasing reluctance on the part of others to outbid the first and succeeding bidders. Some plan for the fair, non-discrimina-

(Continued on page 27)

# A Profitable Range Project

By DeWitt D. Grandy\*

**R**ESEEDING of range land with adapted grasses, together with proper forage management, has practically doubled the forage on grazing areas owned and operated by M. A. Smith and his son, Emory C. Smith of Salt Lake City, Utah, a recent survey has revealed.

This study was made on two comparable grazing units owned by the

\*Soil Conservation Service.

father and son. One, known as the Squaretop unit, includes 3,392 acres and lies south of Water Hollow on the Current Creek drainage west of Fruitland. The other, called the Buckhorn unit, includes 3,591 acres just north of Water Hollow in the same vicinity.

The two grazing units are adjacent, and the elevation, rainfall, and soils are similar. The amount of vegetation types such as aspen, sage, and browse

are about the same on each unit. The difference lies in the fact that reseeding has been carried out on the Squaretop unit, and not on the Buckhorn unit.

The Smiths have owned and run sheep on the Squaretop unit for several years. Recognizing the need for good grass management and other soil and water conservation practices in maintaining maximum production, they entered into an agreement with the super-



This view shows the general topography of the Buckhorn and Squaretop grazing units owned by M. A. Smith and his son, Emory C. Smith, in Wasatch County, Utah.



This is part of the fiftieth crop of lambs to be sold by M. A. Smith, pioneer Utah sheepman. Fourteen hundred lambs were in this band, of which 1,200 were sold as fats, averaging 91 pounds. The 200 feeders weighed 70 pounds.



The picture above, left, shows the condition of a timber burn on the Buckhorn unit of the Smith properties on which reseeding work has not been started, but is planned this year. Note the absence of vegetation. Emory C. Smith is shown (right) inspecting a timber burn area on the Squaretop grazing unit, which has been reseeded to timothy and orchard grass. A survey made by the Soil Conservation Service range specialists revealed that the carrying capacity has been practically doubled as a result of reseeding on this unit over a period of years.



visors of the Uintah Basin Soil Conservation District on May 26, 1943.

Soil Conservation Service technicians working with the district assisted the Smiths in planning their complete conservation program. In addition to reseeding, the program provided for proper stocking, 40 stock water developments, 48 miles of stock roads and trails, seven miles of fencing for better distribution of grazing, 700 acres of woodland improvement, and 4,000 acres of brush clearing.

The Squaretop unit has been reseeded each year where the need was apparent. Crested wheatgrass was seeded on the ridges, on bed grounds, and where vegetation had become thin. Although the growth height of crested wheatgrass is only 2 to 12 inches at this elevation of 7,600 to 8,500 feet, the density is good and almost pure stands have been obtained. Timothy and orchard grass were the main grasses used for reseeding in the aspen areas and on old timber burns. Smooth brome was used on some areas. During the seasons of average rainfall timothy and orchard grass reached a height of four feet on fairly recent timber burns. Timothy and orchard grass have competed successfully with returning native plants and the density has increased.

The Smiths purchased the Buckhorn unit early in 1947 and used it for grazing sheep during the summer, and no reseeding was done. After the close of the 1947 grazing season, the Smiths called upon Soil Conservation Service range specialists to make a comparative forage survey to determine the relative carrying capacities of the two units.

Based upon erosion conditions, and the vigor, density and types of vegetation, some of the Squaretop unit range was classified as excellent, a majority as good, and very little as fair. However, on the Buckhorn unit very little of the range could be classified as excellent, and there was about as much classed as fair as there was as good. (Range land is classified as excellent, good, fair, or poor, based upon present condition in relation to potential forage productivity.) Upon this basis it was calculated that the Squaretop unit had a capacity of 5,045 sheep months, and the Buckhorn unit only 3,030 sheep months.

Utilization of the feed on both units was similar, the sheep being taken off as soon as the forage had been utilized properly. However, it was found that there actually had been 5,306 sheep

months of grazing on the Squaretop unit as compared with the estimated 5,045, and only 3,020 on the Buckhorn unit as compared with the estimated 3030. This increase on the Squaretop unit was attributed to the second growth of the timothy and orchard grass made possible by the conservative rate of stocking.

The Smiths believe in reseeding to the extent that they already have sown more than 10,000 acres of range lands in Utah and Colorado to adapted grasses, and now plan to reseed 900 acres of the Buckhorn unit this year.

## **S. A. Wool Leader Visits U. S.**



Jan Moolman, Chairman of the South African Wool Board, enjoys himself at Craig, Colorado. The sheep in the background are part of the Winder flock.

"If anyone had told me that I would drive for 100 miles in the United States without seeing a town, I wouldn't have believed him." This was the comment of Jan H. Moolman, Chairman of the South African Wool Board, while driving through the wide open spaces of western Colorado recently. Mr. Moolman, accompanied by his wife, arrived in San Francisco from New Zealand on April 13th and from there visited several of the chief wool growing sections of the Rocky Mountain West.

From San Francisco they visited Modesto and Dixon, California and during their tour of these sections of the State they met Mr. and Mrs. Howard Vaughn; Mrs. H. C. Compton; Mrs. Kenneth Sexton; Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Wing; Professor Robert F. Miller; Mr. Olin Timm; Dr. J. F. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Rich, Burley, Idaho; and

Mr. and Mrs. S. Grover Rich, Salt Lake City.

On April 18th, Assistant Secretary Marsh of the National Wool Growers Association, met the Moolmans upon their arrival in Salt Lake City and drove them to Craig, Colorado. Enroute they had an opportunity to see the Wasatch Mountains as well as the sheep country of Eastern Utah and Western Colorado. At Vernal, Utah, the group visited with Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Stringham. Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Winder met the party at Craig, Colorado. Mr. Moolman spent April 19th at the Winder ranch where he had an excellent opportunity to see typical western shearing operations.

From Craig, Colorado, Mr. and Mrs. Moolman went to Denver where they met with Mr. Harry J. Devereaux, Mr. J. B. Wilson, and others in that vicinity connected with the sheep industry.

From Denver the Moolmans went to New York with visits to leading wool textile mills in the East on their schedule. On May 5th they sailed for England where Mr. Moolman will represent South Africa at meetings of the Executive Board of the International Wool Secretariat.

The South African Wool Board is one of the underlying wool growing organizations in The Wool Bureau, Inc., 16 West 46th Street, New York, formed by the merger in February of wool promotion efforts in the U. S. A. of the International Wool Secretariat and the American Wool Council.

Mr. Moolman has been associated with agricultural interests in South Africa for the past 20 years. He is former president of the South African Wool Growers Association, Chairman of the Wool Growers Auctions, a director of the South African Wool Disposal Organization, and director of several textile companies.

Mr. Jack Slaughter of Earl Newsom agency, New York City, met Mr. and Mrs. Moolman on their arrival in San Francisco and accompanied them on their United States tour. Mr. Earl Newsom is the American representative of the International Wool Secretariat.

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### **34th NATIONAL RAM SALE**

**Date: AUGUST 22-23, 1949**

**Place: NORTH SALT LAKE**

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Lambs sired by Hampshire Rams and out of Lincoln-Merino Crossbred Ewes crossing the Yakima River bridge at Prosser, Washington. They were fed by Archie Prior; weighed 90 pounds. Note the low-set, blocky type of lambs.

# Producing The Ideal Market Lamb

By Col. E. N. Wentworth, Director Armour's Livestock Bureau

ONE of the most difficult problems in the sheep industry is the production of an ideal market lamb. To begin with, the approach to the ideal is confused by the fact that the mother of the lamb has been bred for a wool clip that should exceed her cost of keep throughout the year. But perfection in wool production has always been contradictory to perfection in lamb carcass. Ever since the chief volume of sheep production shifted to the Western States, the sheep breeder has swung from coarse or medium-wooled rams to fine-wooled, and back again, in part to out-guess the demand in the wool market, and in larger part to adapt his flock to the rigors of the western environment. Many breeders were highly successful in adjusting to Nature, but altogether too frequently they missed on the requirements of the wool market.

Many flocks became so mixed in blood that the ewes could not breed true, and the shift from one breed of rams, or one grade of fleece in the rams, to another, continued to make the inherited qualities in the lambs fattened for market more and more motley and diverse. During the late 80's and the 90's when the lamb fat-

tening industry was developing in the West this problem did not attract much attention, but after World War I, when the consumer became more exacting in his demand, the number of off-grade and cull lambs became a real problem.

Even before the first World War the better breeders were examining lamb prices as related to quality, and from the consumer's standpoint the old Bureau of Markets in the Department of Agriculture was attempting to establish standards for live animals and dressed carcasses. This latter situation was difficult to meet due to the absence of specific words to describe carcass shape and quality. Even today, after three decades of experience, the official descriptions of prime and choice market lambs mean nothing to a person unfamiliar with the qualities which the trade recognizes. Among lamb graders themselves, there is difficulty in sticking to absolute standards when practically none of the animals coming to market meet the ideal.

To determine what the ideal lamb carcass is, one must work backwards from the dining table, and it is even necessary to know where the table is. If it is in the home, the cuts that are acceptable for the average family must

be smaller than if that table is located in a club, hotel, or restaurant. During the war this last table could carry heavier legs or chops than it could during peace, because of the over-all shortage of meat and because of the greater numbers of service kitchens (the messes of the Army, the galleys of the Navy, and the ovens of hospitals, construction camps, and civilian depots) which operated during the emergency. Hence, while the maximum limit of weight for live lambs was 85 pounds before 1940, there were periods during the war, and just after, when 105- to 115-pound lambs were not penalized.

Today the signs of consumer discrimination against heavy carcasses are becoming apparent once more. In the range of heavy lambs from 48 to 58 pounds there was, in early December (1948), a cut of four cents against the extreme weight as compared to the light end of the range, with proportionate differences in the intermediate weights. As compared to the ideal weights for the household trade—38- to 44-pound carcasses—the 58-pound lamb may be penalized as much as eight cents. Of course, these spreads in price are not calculated ones, nor

are they established arbitrarily. Every weight of lamb carcass is sold for the highest price the seller can obtain, and the difference reflects the willingness of each class of trade to buy. Invariably housewives want light cuts, 3½- to 4½-pound legs, and small rib and loin chops. The numbers in the family are small, and most of its members want variety in the meat from one meal to the next and from one day to the next. During the 1948 Thanksgiving season the differential between tom and hen turkeys of the same age was 10 to 12 cents a pound dressed, principally because the toms weighed five to eight pounds more. Most people object to repeated meals based on the Thanksgiving turkey and in most homes they equally object to more than one meal of cold or warmed-over lamb.

While the meat shortage was on, people going out for dinner accepted roasts from heavier carcasses gratefully, and hotels and night clubs served heavy chops and roast legs. Today most of this demand has disappeared, and the easy money that was squandered on night life and entertainment has diminished greatly. As it has contracted, so has the demand for heavy lambs. This is one of the principal factors in setting up the margins between light, middle, and heavyweight carcasses today.

The ideal lamb of the present weighs from 80 to 85 pounds alive, and produces a carcass weighing from 38 to 44 pounds. This carcass should be short and blocky, thick in the loin and back, and heavy in the leg. It must be covered over the shoulders. If there is a bluish cast in the shoulder, the price discrimination is great, even though the loin and the leg may be very good. This condition appears frequently in lambs sired by mutton breeds from western ewes.

Apparently the old rule the English developed about the order of fattening in the different parts of the sheep no longer applies in the crossbreds. We used to look for fat at the tongue root, in the neck vein, at the dock, over the back, down in the twist, and last of all, on the outside of the shoulders, the lower ribs, and the outside of the lower thighs. In many of these crossbred lambs the back and the upper hind quarters finish out long before the shoulder and forequarter get their basic covering.

There seems to be some characteristic

differences between the types of lambs sired by the popular breeds in the West. Not many growers have used Shropshire and Southdown rams, but those that have, have nearly always produced lambs of excellent market quality. They are not always heavy enough when marketed to make a profit for their owners, although I have known of flocks in the Bighorn country of Wyoming, in the high plains north of Denver, and in parts of California where rams of these breeds, crossed to large range ewes, have given excellent results. The crossbred lambs were just as profitable as with the more common breeds.

Among the popular breeds there are characteristic good points as well as bad points in the offspring. For example, Rambouillet rams on western ewes usually give lambs with very good loins, and unless they are too wrinkly furnish good pelt credits where the grade of wool is taken into account. On the other hand, their progeny usually show sharper shoulders, coarser texture of flesh, and heavier pelts than those by other breeds, and too many of them are light on the outside of the leg and do not cover down well.

The Corriedale crosses are usually well-balanced lambs, and show good quality and texture in flesh. The carcass is likely to be well proportioned, but usually lacks in finish until it reaches the heavier grades. The long fiber and greater proportionate weight of pelt result in lower dressing percentages, as compared to live weights. Perhaps the lambs by Corriedales give a good example of why the packer would like to see more twins, for twin lambs normally fatten at lighter weights, and two 80-pound lambs should make both the breeder and feeder more money than one 95- to 100-pound lamb.

Hampshire-cross lambs nearly always display good proportions in the carcass, but are likely to be leggy and have a heavier shoulder and bone than the choicest carcasses warrant. Also Hampshire crossbred lambs are more likely to be overweight at market time and to have a less valuable pelt than either of the previous crosses mentioned.

The Suffolk-sired lambs usually have thick fleshing, and good legs and loin, although in the beginning there was considerable criticism of the covering of the outside of the leg and the lower

thigh. This latter point has been remedied pretty well, but many buyers of Suffolk-cross carcasses still feel that the shoulder is more peaked and angular than a choice carcass should possess. Suffolk crossbreds usually show high dressing percentages because of the relative lightness of their fleece and pelts.

Perhaps one way to overcome the heavy lamb problem without too great a change in standard breeding practices, would be to select for more twin-bearing ewes. Many rangemen have felt that twins were a detriment, and if they considered the weight of individual lambs off grass, they perhaps had a point. But today there are many ways of feeding ewes on the range to supplement their milk production on grass, and the problem of culls on this score need no longer be endured. The greatest factor in lamb profits is the percentage of lamb crop, and with the modern knowledge of grass feeding sheep, and the facilities which have been developed for it, there is no need of regarding twins as a handicap. Instead, they provide one of the greatest factors in increasing efficiency.

In working toward the ideal lamb, the average producer must think of the standard which the consumer sets. Many of the qualities the consumer desires are expensive to produce. Some of them are actually inefficient from the standpoint of the grower and fatter. The characteristics that cost the most to attain must be balanced against the lessened price if they are not present. If a sheepman can make a better net return by ignoring them and accepting a lower price level, he may be better off, but he is not likely to be satisfied if his neighbor comes back with better sales at the market than he does.

The feeding end of the industry has advanced rapidly. The best breeders in all breeds are turning out rams that are worthy of the commercial producers' attention. They can give profitable results when they are mated to ewes which are chosen with the marketable lamb in mind. But most issues in flock management lie within the control of the grower, and the profit that he makes must come from his own initiative. The most important move he can make is to increase his percentage of lambs, and this will come nearer to solving the heavy lamb problem in a practical way than any of the obvious moves.



# Men's Wear Promotion By The Wool Bureau

**P**LEASE turn to page 1, or perhaps you have already noted that wool won the "Oscar" in the fiber competition for men's favor in summer suits. This page advertisement appearing in trade journals of eastern manufacturing centers and other periodicals is only one part, however, of a very broad program recently inaugurated by The Wool Bureau, Inc., to promote sales in men's wearing apparel.

For several months past, you will recall, the bugaboo in the wool market has been the sluggishness in men's wear sales. During this same period, the demand for women's clothing has continued fairly strong and healthy. While women may be more clothes-conscious than men, just a glance at the society or women's section of your daily or Sunday paper quite convincingly suggests that women's desire for new clothes is being accentuated or built up by fashion displays and articles provided for their reading consumption.

In any event, the market situation called for a concentrated promotion move on men's wear and that is just what The Wool Bureau has initiated.

Here is a brief report of what they have done recently:

March 20 "Modes of the Moment," distributed by the feature section of an outstanding press association to 500 daily newspapers. Photographs, mats, text.

March 23 "Style for Men" first issue of The Wool Bureau Men's Wear News Service, to 3,000 newspapers. Photographs, mats, text.

March 24 Distribution of Wool Bureau "Style for Men" News Service to 3,500 retail clothing merchants, manufacturers and others for their information and for local tie-up.

March 25 Men's wear Easter page was distributed with mat and text by a second national feature service to 1,200 daily newspapers.

March 28 News release on contemplated formation of Men's Wear Style and Fashion Authority by The Wool Bureau. News release nationally.

March 29 Night letter to 100 leading retail

clothiers throughout the country summing up increasing demand for virgin wool tropical suits and an analysis of the results of the survey on men's fiber preferences in summer clothing. Telegrams sent with suggestion these merchants tie up with press stories released by Bureau of Agricultural Economics for March 30.

March 29 Press Easter men's wear feature by Eugenia Sheppard in New York Herald Tribune, for release week of March 29-April 3. A special feature on the influence of women in the selection of men's clothes released by an outstanding press association to its 1,200 newspapers.

March 30 Reprints of all men's wear news features mailed to list of 5,000 clothing retail merchants and clothing manufacturers.

March 31 Wool Facts release to all newspapers and trade magazines in the country—and analysis of the important survey of men's fabric preferences in summer clothing made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the Department of Agriculture. Total distribution, 10,000 copies.

## Advertising

March 30 Duplicate page center spread in Daily News Record, on fundamentally important results of survey of men's wear preferences by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

April 3 Seven column, three quarter page advertisement repeating results of Bureau of Agricultural Economics survey of men's fabric preferences in summer clothing.

April 1 - May 1 Full page repetition of this advertisement in all apparel trade papers, such as Apparel Arts, etc.

April 5 Distribution of striking eight page illustrated brochure outlining in detail men's fabric preferences in summer clothing as revealed by Bureau of Agricultural Economics survey.

April 10-15 Distribution to 5,000 retail clothing merchants of a series of six retail advertisements of men's virgin wool tropical summer suits with excellent art work and complete mat service. These mats are available free on request.

"We are blanketing the entire country," says F. Eugene Ackerman, chairman of the Executive Committee of The Wool Bureau, Inc., "and we believe that this opening men's wear operation by The Wool Bureau is the most comprehensive yet taken on in behalf of the industry. . . . It is just the beginning of a continuous information service to the trade and to all elements of the press to promote wool and American wool products."

# Men Prefer Wool in Summer Suits

Broadcast by Senator J. C. O'Mahoney

**T**HE overwhelming preference by men for wool in summer suits, as revealed by the recently concluded survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, is "a demonstration that the public acts with intelligence in buying the clothes it wears and uses," United States Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D. Wyoming) stated on April 1st in a transcribed radio interview which was afterwards presented for publication in the Congressional Record. (Wool growers may have heard the transcription as some Western stations used it on their agricultural programs.)

Senator O'Mahoney, referring to the tragic losses suffered by livestock raisers in the West as a result of the recurring winter storms of 1948-49, declared that sheep raisers could take satisfaction in the understanding by the public of the importance of wool in clothing. "The public's conclusions," he said, "reflect an understanding of the well established traditional qualities which have made wool the most important fiber for the use of mankind in general."

"The Bureau of Agricultural Economics is noted for the high caliber of its statistical accuracy," Senator O'Mahoney said, "and the survey is a splendid example of how Government can assist industry in assessing the size of markets, and in guiding industry in methods of increasing sales to the advantage of the producer of agricultural commodities."

The text of Senator O'Mahoney's statement follows:

## Men Prefer Wool for Clothing

This is good news for the wool growers of America. It is good news for manufacturers of wool fabrics and those who are engaged in the business of distributing fabrics and clothing made of wool.

Less than ten years ago this country was the second largest producer of fine wools in the world. Here in the United States we supplied 65 percent of our own clothing needs from our own farms and ranches in our biggest clothing years. The remaining 35 percent was imported. Our annual domestic clip ran around 450 million pounds a year and provided employment for some 500,000 people.

This year, due, among other causes, to the high cost of production, foreign compe-

The National Wool Grower



tion and the unprecedented disaster which held the Rocky Mountain West in its grip for three months last winter, wool production will probably be not more than it was as long ago as 1867. The '49 domestic wool clip will hardly exceed 225 million pounds. In the meantime, consumption of wool has increased from a little over 600 million pounds to approximately one billion pounds. We are meeting our wool clothing requirements by importing almost 80 percent of our peacetime needs.

\*\*\*\*

The discouragements which the wool growers have encountered from the rigours of nature and the progress of science in synthetic fibers have been substantially counteracted by the revelations of the American consumers' preference for wool clothing which was disclosed in a preliminary summary of a report by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the Department of Agriculture of its survey of consumer reactions to the various fibers used in clothing. This survey was completed in June 1948 and was made with funds provided by the Agricultural Research and Marketing Act of 1946.

### Survey Shows Great Wool Market

The Bureau is noted for the high caliber of its statistical accuracy and the survey is a splendid example of how Government can assist industry in assessing the size of markets, and in guiding industry in methods of increasing sales to the advantage of the producer of agricultural commodities.

A sample group of men which the BAE declares represents a total of 50 million persons was questioned as to their fiber preferences in a number of articles of clothing. Opinions varied widely where shirts, bathrobes, socks, underwear and pajamas were concerned, although the preference for wool in most of these items was surprisingly large. Cotton, that other great natural fiber, was high in favor among these items.

It was in men's summer suits that the preference for wool was overwhelming. No question was asked as to fiber preference in men's winter clothing because wool is practically the only fiber used in cold weather clothing. Summer suits, the manufacturers tell us, have only emerged from the novelty stage within the past ten years or so. In the deep South and in the tropics outside this country men have worn cotton frill suits for generations, and have in fact developed typical tropical wardrobes.

Now however the wool grower can take satisfaction in the fact that a new use of his product is developing in the lightweight, skeleton lined tropical worsted suit which appeared first as a luxury in the central and northern parts of the United States. The use has grown until today it comprises between 15 and 20 percent of all men's suits.

The men questioned by the BAE representatives were asked if they bought and wore summer suits and if so what fiber they preferred and why? Here are some of their answers:

40 percent of those questioned owned and wore summer suits.

Of this total 62 percent preferred wool and wool mixtures with other fibers.

8 percent said they preferred cotton.

7 percent said they preferred rayon.

In other words, nine out of ten men prefer wool and wool mixtures to rayon in their summer suits, and 4 out of 5 prefer wool and wool mixtures to both cotton and rayon.

The reasons for this preference for wool were interesting and understandable. They

demonstrate again—if another demonstration were necessary—that the public acts with intelligence in buying the clothes it wears and uses, and that its choice is based on the practical purposes the fabrics serve.

The men questioned preferred wool because they like its looks; because they said it is comfortable, and because it is durable and wears well. The same reasons were given for the increasing use of wool in shirts, socks, robes and other apparel items. They represented conclusions based on experience, and they reflected an understanding of the well-established traditional qualities which have made wool the most important fiber for the use of mankind in clothing.

### Service Not New Patterns Reason for Wool

These men do not prefer wool because it is the season's new color or the moment's new pattern, although these may give the careful dresser some concern. They buy wool because it makes fabrics which give them the most for their money in wear, service and looks.

Since this country spends an average of 10 percent of all the wages and salaries earned by its people, and more than 20 percent of this total goes for wool clothing, it is important, first that the prices for apparel wool be kept within reasonable limits

to enable all of the people to buy wool clothing, and second, that we grow at least a substantial percentage of the wool we need.

The Department of Agriculture, which just completed this valuable survey, recently joined with The Wool Bureau, an organization comprising the American Wool Council representing American wool growers and the International Wool Secretariat representing wool growers of the British Dominions, in a long-term wool research project. This project is based at the Textile Research Institute at Princeton, New Jersey, and the Western Research Laboratories of the Department of Agriculture at Albany, California.

This research project is devoted to learning how to make better textures of all grades of wools, particularly those medium grades which are in greatest world's supply. The successful results which are anticipated will widen all wool markets, and help in stabilizing wool prices in all grades, thus providing the public with a larger supply of those wools which this country demands in its clothing.

Here again is a splendid example of practical cooperation between Government and agriculture, conducted to the benefit of industry and the public. It has the added advantage of being a practical lesson in international cooperation in which everyone benefits to their mutual profit.

## James Laidlaw Recalls Another Bad Winter

JANUARY 12, 1906, it snowed about 18 inches. That much snow, and sheep are snow bound. I had sheep 20 to 25 miles north of Minidoka (Idaho). About the first thing I did was wire Idaho Falls for a couple of sleighs. At that time, there was an old fellow, by the name of Young, and his son that had a camp wagon out on the desert. They had visions of corralling some wild horses, of which there were lots at that time. So I rode out there and got them to move their camp to the road where the sheep would have to come, as a half-way station. By the way, I don't remember how it came, but eight of us stayed there one night, all glad to be out of the cold. At that time, there were freighters living in Minidoka that did freighting to Albion, (they were still building the Minidoka dam), so there were plenty of horses to be had. Once we got the sleighs, it did not take long to break a road to the sheep. The farthest out band we did not see for over a week. They were in big sagebrush where they had spread out some, and had eaten a good deal of the brush off. When the road was broken, it did not take long to get the sheep to Minidoka. Once on the road, all you had to do was follow them. It thawed the latter part of February.

By March 1st the sheep were all back on the range.

One incident I will never forget. A big fellow with a crooked neck, who had been freighting to the dam, and a little Irishman named Murphy, with red whiskers, did freighting to Albion. The big fellow with the crooked neck had four big grey horses, about the biggest horses I ever saw. On a Friday morning I started the two of them on one of the sleighs with 40 sacks of corn, furnished them with a good big lunch, expecting they would reach the half-way camp. That evening about 5 o'clock there came a real blizzard. They did not reach the camp, but got into a deep pot hole, stayed for the night. In the morning, they unloaded the corn, started out intending to come to Minidoka, but instead went north, got off the road and missed the half-way camp. There were no airplanes in those days to send out and spot them. They showed up in Minidoka the next Monday night. At that time there were 9 saloons in Minidoka. Once I knew they were in, I went around on Saloon Alley, and found Murphy. I presume he had had a few drinks and a beef steak, but the big fellow with the crooked neck had to be

(Continued on page 34)

# Wool Market Dull

WOOL prices are discussed on the editorial page this month by Secretary Jones. It is definitely shown there that while there has been a reduction in foreign wool prices it is only a comparatively small one.

Fluctuations in foreign wool auction prices have occurred before. In February and March of last year there was a downward adjustment, and early last fall, it will be remembered, some concern was occasioned by lower values. In both instances, however, the market moved upward again.

That this may happen now is borne out to some extent by recent reports from those markets. On April 30, the Commercial Bulletin reports a "firming" of prices at Sydney and all other Australian points. This, in turn, is strengthening the London markets. "Continuing opinion is heard in British Empire trade circles to the effect that the tightness today and in prospect for some time will keep Merino wool prices at high levels. That could mean at the recently reduced levels since prices are still intrinsically high . . . ."

Over the range country, growers who have not previously sold or consigned their 1949 clips are waiting apparently until after shearing before making a decision as to the disposal of their wool. Dealers, on the other hand, are also playing a waiting game as no offers apparently have been made recently.

Exceptions to the above statements are in the sealed bid sales of two California clips during the week ended April 23. The Stone Valley Ranch of Willows, California (Sacramento Valley) sold 5,000 fleeces at 62 cents a pound, f.o.b. shipping point. Last year's purchase price for this same clip was 64¾ cents. On the basis of an estimated shrink of 43 percent, this wool is said to have a clean landed Boston cost of \$1.20 per pound. An offer of 70 cents was refused early in the present season for this clip, as it is the policy of the Stone Valley Ranch Company to sell their wool at shearing time.

The Stone Valley Ranch is owned by the Murdock Land Company of which Mrs. Henria P. Compton is president, and J. Kenneth Sexton, manager.

The other wool sold at a sealed bid sale covered something over 10,000 fleeces for which 58.13 cents per pound, f.o.b. shipping point, was paid to C. M.

French of Willows, California. Last year this clip was sold at 55 cents. The clean landed Boston price on the clip this year is estimated to be \$1.30.

During the final week of April, the Elwood McPherrin (Sacramento Valley) clip was sold at 53.50 cents, f.o.b. shipping point, with a clean landed Boston cost estimated at \$1.28.

Two lots of Washington range wool were reported contracted during the month at 50 cents per pound.

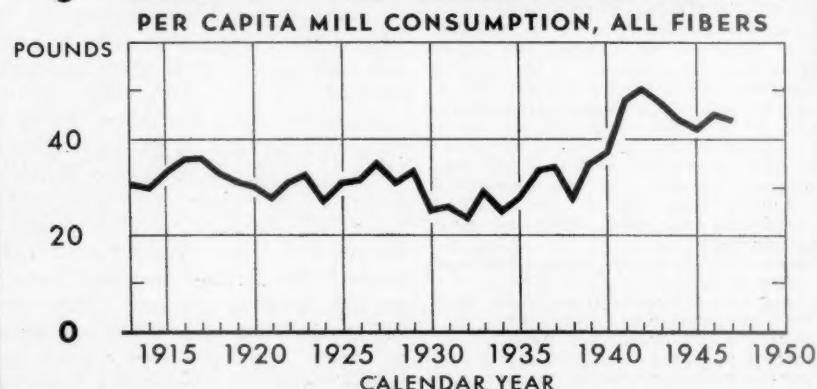
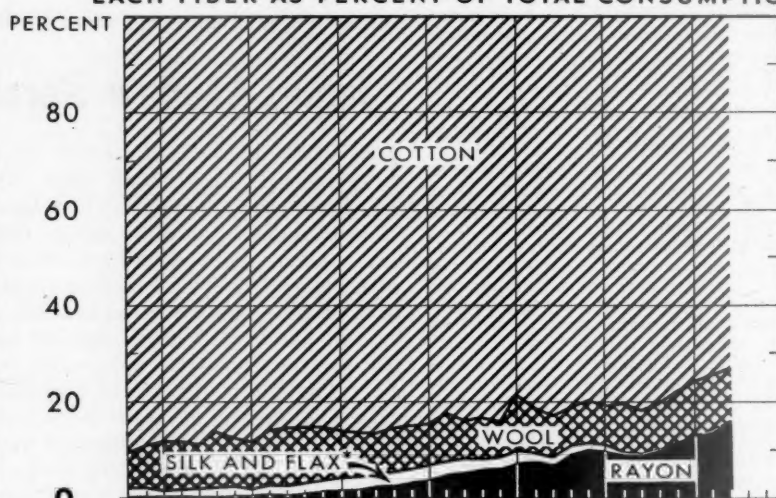
Little trading has been done in the Boston market. During the last week of the month a small volume of three-

eighths Utah, good French combing and staple wool brought \$1.10, clean basis, and various lots of Government-owned three-eighths fleece wool were sold. At the middle of the month a light shrinking lot of early shorn wool brought around \$1.75, clean basis, at Boston.

Watchful waiting is the attitude also of the mills and the clothing trades. Several firms that make men's suits, having secured quite a volume of piece goods at prices much lower than the regular market, are making reductions to retailers and are now reported as hoping that mills will follow this step and make it possible for the suit makers to continue to offer their output at reduced prices. The mills, however,

## WEARING APPAREL FIBERS: UNITED STATES CONSUMPTION, 1913-47

EACH FIBER AS PERCENT OF TOTAL CONSUMPTION



\*FLAX, YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1913-17 DATA FOR 1947 ARE PRELIMINARY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 45970A-X BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



according to the Commercial Bulletin, are inclined to be cautious about making any reductions, before they know what the exact effect is going to be from the standpoint of increased consumer purchases.

### GROWERS' PART IN WOOL PROMOTION

Wool growers everywhere will want to do their share in promoting their products . . . wool and mohair. So be sure to remind the firm or individual handling your wool clip to deduct the ten-cents-per-bag\* assessment for promoting your products: wool and mohair. (In States where membership cards are operative authorizing membership deductions from wool clips, this deduction includes the wool promotion contribution. If you have signed a card authorizing membership dues deductions from your wool clip, please remind the firm handling your wool to make this deduction).

\* (5 cents on small bags used in Texas and New Mexico.)

### Wool Pool Settlement

FOURTEEN hundred and twenty Willamette Valley and Western Washington wool growers north of Cottage Grove in Oregon, and as far north as the San Juan Islands in western Washington, early in April received final payments for their graded wools which were marketed through the Pacific Wool Growers.

The growers in the pool received a total of approximately \$400,000 net for about 800,000 pounds of wool in the pool. Prices were determined by grade, core-tested shrinkage and Commodity Credit Corporation prices, although several grades were sold outside the Government wool program.

Prices ranged from 43 to 57 cents per pound for year's growth wools. Lambs wool brought somewhat less. The average price for all wools netted 48.71 cents per pound. Choice combing wools, which comprised 225,000 pounds of the pool netted 52.02 cents a pound.

The distribution just made represents the final payment for the wool, the Pacific Wool Growers' announcement states, the member growers having previously received advance payments of about 40 cents a pound at the time the wools were received at the association's warehouse in Portland shortly after shearing.

### CCC STOCKS

The Commodity Credit Corporation reports that as of March 31 this year it had 77,477,000 pounds of wool available for sale. During the month of March it purchased 2,740,000 pounds of 1948 wool and 2,869,000 pounds of the current year's clip. Sales during that month totaled 13,538,000 pounds.

### April in Idaho

APRIL has been a mean month in Idaho. The Weather Bureau reports this has been the driest spring in 60 years. As I recall we have had no moisture of any kind since early in March. In spite of the heavy snows last winter the ground is dry, very dry, and irrigation is going on far in advance of normal. Sheep already have been moved to the foothills, about 18 days earlier than usual. Grass is very short and will remain so. In spite of all this both sheep and lambs are in good shape—maybe lambs are a bit better than usual, and even if it remains dry will be in good fix at market time.

Cattle do not look so good. They have had their range all to themselves for more than a month but for some reason or other cattle ranges do not hold up like the sheep range. There has been a great change in public thinking on this matter in the last three or four years.


S. W. McClure

### GOOD BOOK ON DOGS

The National Wool Grower has received numerous requests in the past for information on the care and training of dogs, and on that account feels sure the book entitled "Sheep Dogs, Their Maintenance and Training," by Dr. R. V. Kelley will fill a real need in the sheep country.

As you will see, it is added to the list of books for sheepmen in this issue. It sells at \$3.50 per copy.

Dr. Kelley's book has been highly recommended by several breeders of dogs, so we have no hesitancy in passing the recommendation on to our readers.



## CREDIT Available

### SHEEPMEN CATTLEMEN

SEE US FOR YOUR RANGE  
AND FEEDER LOANS  
Prompt and Courteous Service  
Low Interest Rate

### UTAH LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATION

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MEN'S SHIRTS  
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LOUNGING ROBES  
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**"Always Virgin Wool"**

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Highest Prices Paid  
for  
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and Wool

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# April Lamb Market

## Public Market Prices

**T**HE upward swing in lamb prices which started in mid-February was reversed the first week of April. Lower prices were attributed both to a seasonal increase in the marketing of spring lambs and rather sharp drops in the eastern dressed lamb market.

Fed woolled lamb prices declined 50 cents to \$2 the first week of April. Good and choice kinds sold during the week mostly from \$29 to \$30.25. Several loads, however, brought \$30.50 to \$31.50 and one load of choice fed Colorados brought \$31.75 at Chicago. Common and medium kinds sold largely from \$21 to \$28.

At South St. Paul, four loads of medium to good Canadian woolled lambs brought \$29.50 the first week of the month. Medium to choice lambs with No. 1 and No. 3 pelts sold mainly from \$25 to \$30. Choice lambs sold up to \$30.25 at Chicago, an all-time high, and at St. Louis National Stock Yards six decks of Texas lambs with No. 2 and No. 3 pelts brought \$28.50 and \$28.75. Choice lambs with No. 2 pelts reached \$30.75, also a new high price record.

Choice spring lambs sold during the first week of April up to \$33 at Chicago and East St. Louis. Good and choice springers at St. Joseph brought \$31 and \$32 and several loads of good and choice 83- to 88-pound Arizonas at Kansas City brought \$30.75 to \$31.25.

During the week ending April 16th, the dressed lamb market in New York dropped \$8 to \$10 per hundred. Good and choice spring lambs sold early in the week from \$32.25 to \$35, with small lots reaching \$40 at the St. Louis National Stock Yards. However, later in the week when the dressed market collapsed and Kosher holidays became a bearish factor, good and choice spring lambs sold mostly from \$29.25 downward.

A considerable volume at Fort Worth sold from \$27 to \$28. Good and choice fed woolled lambs selling early in the second week at tops from \$30 to \$31.50 closed largely at \$28 to \$30.

There were further price drops on fat lambs the third week of April, fol-

lowed by a recovery at some markets as the eastern dressed lamb trade staged a mild comeback. Starvation receipts at 12 markets also strengthened prices somewhat.

Choice Wyoming fed woolled lambs at Chicago topped early in the third week at \$29.50. Bulk of the good and choice fed woolled lambs at Omaha sold at \$27 to \$27.75, although a top of \$28 was reached. At Denver, good and choice woolled lambs sold during the week mostly from \$26.50 to \$28. Good and choice shorn lambs sold there from \$25 to \$27.25.

Fat lambs started out the fourth week of April at strong to higher prices due to the small receipts. Good and choice fed woolled kinds brought largely \$27 to \$29.25. Four loads of California spring lambs at Ogden brought \$29.25. At Omaha, a small lot of choice 80-pound slaughter spring lambs brought \$30.

Prices on good and choice woolled ewes also declined during the month. They sold largely from \$12.50 to \$14.50 early in the month, and mostly \$11.50 to \$13.50 during the last half of the month.

Good and choice lambs sold for shearing purposes on various markets during the month largely in a price range from \$26 to \$29.50. Good and

choice feeding lambs sold generally from \$26.50 to \$28. Both feeding and shearing lambs shared the general price decline in the fat lamb market.

## Lamb Contracting

Lambs moving out of the San Joaquin Valley to packers the latter part of April were generally in good slaughter flesh, weighing from 90 to 98 pounds. Deliveries made the latter part of the month were on contracts mostly at \$28 to \$29 per hundred, with a few down to \$27.50.

In the Sacramento Valley, reports the latter part of April were to the effect that the spring lamb crop had made poor progress after the severe winter. A few slaughter lambs weighing around 80 pounds sold for \$30 per hundred for immediate delivery (week ending April 16th). Other lambs contracted several weeks earlier at \$25.50 were received and weighed around 82 pounds. Most of the Sacramento Valley lambs are reported as lacking external and internal fat and will probably be placed on ladino clover and dry feed for further finishing. A few lambs ranging in the Sierra Nevada Mountains are reported contracted from \$23.50 to \$25 per hundred for July and August delivery.

## Rambouillet Lambs Make Record at Fort Worth Market



This consignment of straight Rambouillet lambs raised and fattened by Carl Robinson, Big Spring, Texas, established a new record on the Fort Worth market. Not only were they the first lambs to reach the \$27.50 per hundred price in 1949 but the lambs dressed out 56.32 percent which is a record yield at Fort Worth. The consignment sold March 23rd and the lambs averaged 107 pounds.

## Would You Gamble

# The Profits on Your Year's Work For a Few Cents?



Of Course You Wouldn't! Then—When You Sell Your Livestock,  
Why Don't You Use The Services Of The Expert Salesmen At The

## SIOUX CITY STOCK YARDS

Prices paid for spring lambs by Los Angeles packers for the week ending April 16th ranged from \$28 to \$29, with limited numbers reported at \$30.

Mojave Desert ranges are reported poor. A couple of bands were contracted there in April at \$26.50, probably for late May delivery.

Nevada ranges are reported good

due to moisture from last winter's heavy snows. Around 18,000 lambs in the Elko area have been contracted for fall delivery at \$23.50 per hundred, with contracts usually calling for a 50-pound minimum weight.

Contracts in Montana around the middle of April called for \$22 per hundred on mixed blackfaced lambs for

fall delivery; \$24 per hundred for blackfaced yearling ewes out of the wool, July delivery.

Up to April 16th, contracts had been drawn in the Yakima Valley and Ellensburg sections of Washington at \$23 to \$23.50 per hundred. These are mostly on lambs that will be delivered at 60 pounds and over and mainly in slaughter flesh. Bids on some fat lambs for July delivery are reported at \$25.

A few sales of yearling ewes out of the wool are reported in Idaho at \$26 to \$27.50. These were crossbred yearlings of good size, producing three-eighths and quarter-blood wool.

E. E. M.

### Prices and Slaughter This Year and Last

Total U. S. Inspected	1949	1948
Slaughter, First Three Months	3,229,274	3,730,464
Week Ended	April 23	April 24
Slaughter at 32 centers	115,846	182,529
Chicago Average Lamb Prices (Wooled):		
Good and Choice	\$28.22	\$26.08
Medium and Good	25.45	23.52
New York Av. Western Dressed Lamb Prices		
Choice, 40-45 pounds	53.80	53.80
Good, 40-45 pounds	51.80	52.50

### Federally Inspected Slaughter—March

Cattle	1,102,081	985,812
Calves	618,637	566,374
Hogs	4,314,668	3,574,127
Sheep and Lambs	949,168	1,174,678

M. L. Buchanan, Secretary  
U. S. Archibald, President

## COLUMBIAS

More Wool More Mutton

Address inquiries to  
Columbia Sheep Breeders Ass'n.  
of America

Box 2466 — State College Station  
Fargo, North Dakota

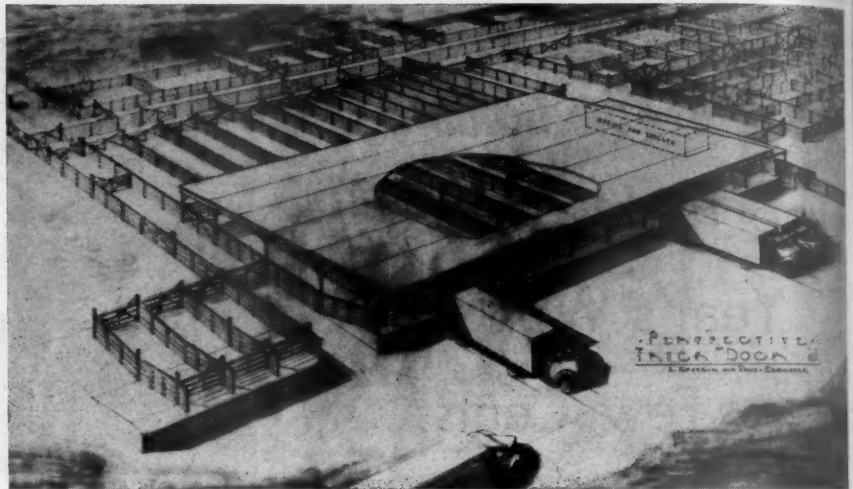
## Improvements at Chicago Yards

MAJOR improvements in the services and facilities of the Chicago Union Stock Yards include a new 200 x 125 foot truck unloading dock in the south area of the market.

It will provide 12 unloading chutes with platform and chute alleys all under cover. There are also 12 additional new pens 35 x 10 feet, making ample pen room for speedy yarding and sorting and four special unloading chutes adjacent to the main construction.

The entire project will have concrete paving so laid as to facilitate cleaning and provide sure footing for the livestock. New lifetime gates of light aluminum are planned. Also included is an operator's office, wash room and toilet facilities with hot and cold water for the comfort and convenience of the truckers.

Market officials state that the south half of the construction will soon be in operation to replace outmoded docks



New Cattle Truck Unloading Docks at Chicago Union Stock Yards

to be discarded, after which the north half will be completed. It is anticipated that the entire dock will be completed and in operation by early June.

The plans, as announced by William Wood Prince, recently elected presi-

dent of the Union Stock Yard & Transit Company of Chicago, operators of the market, will effect greater speed in loading and unloading cattle.

Flood lighting will make possible around-the-clock use of these facilities.

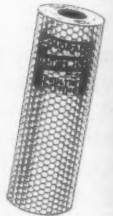


### "COLORADO WOLF-PROOF FENCE IS A GOOD LONG-TIME INVESTMENT"

"One of the best investments I've ever made is my Colorado Wolf-Proof Fence. It stands up under the abuse of animals and weather, doesn't slip, sag, or loosen. Besides, it's always on guard to keep out predatory animals and confine my flock, whether I'm there or not.

"When you figure how I save money by not losing sheep and by having proper range control, you see why I call my Colorado Wolf-Proof Fence a good long-time investment."

Among Other CF&I Products: Welded Wire Fabric, Bale Ties, Fence Stays, Barbed Wire, Nails & Staples



COLORADO LOK-TWIST POULTRY NETTING



COLORADO FIELD FENCE



**The Colorado Fuel and Iron Corporation**

General Offices: Denver, Colorado

Pacific Coast Sales: The California Wire Cloth Corporation, Oakland, Calif.



SEE YOUR **PURINA DEALERS** FOR THESE 2 SHEEP BUILDING AIDS

### CUSTOM SPRAYING SERVICE

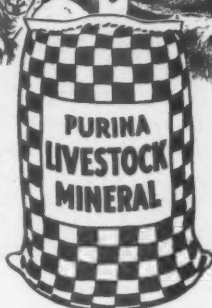


Ranchmen everywhere say it pays to have their Purina Dealers spray all ewes after shearing. They use Purina Fly Spray containing 46% DDT...plus new "1068." They like this special spray because it *kills ticks and flies faster and sticks on longer* than straight DDT products. Your Purina Dealer can quickly figure his low spraying cost for you.

### PURINA LIVESTOCK MINERAL



During spring and summer, while lambs are growing and ewes giving milk and growing wool, a little Livestock Mineral can often make a big difference in results. Many grazing lands are deficient in one or more minerals, which holds back milk production and growth. Keep Purina Mineral before them. They eat only what they need... *the cost is only a few cents a head.*



**RALSTON PURINA COMPANY**

Denver • Kansas City • Wichita • Pocatello

## Your Central Markets

(Continued from page 15)

tory determination of preference in bidding without allocation of supplies and destruction of competition in periods where supplies are relatively light is being sought and will be found.

If this apparent lack of competition is due to lack of supplies, you can do something about it. If it is due to inadequate facilities or service, we can do something about it. If it is due to lack of effort on the part of sales agencies in tapping all buying outlets, they can do something about it. If it is due to a failure of our system of competitive agency selling to function properly, we can all do something about it. If it is due to unreasonable, unfair, discriminatory or deceptive practices on the part of sales agencies, or buyers, or of the markets, the Packers and Stockyards Division of the Department of Agriculture can do something about it under the authority of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

### Prices

In the absence of an open competitive market where sales are consummat-

ed by qualified salesmen and buyers and reflect all the factors of supply and demand, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to determine fair and satisfactory prices. The producer wants a price high enough to cover the cost of production and a profit. But he should be concerned lest it be too high and restrict consumption. The processor wants the price low enough to enable him to add the processing and selling expenses and have a profit from the sale of meat. But he too should be concerned lest the price be so low that it will limit production. Somewhere between the extremes is a fair and satisfactory price; but it can seldom be arbitrarily fixed by either the producer or processor. It must be agreed upon by trading in an open competitive market.

We know that sales are sometimes unsatisfactory to you as well as to your sales agent. But you will understand that every sale requires a buyer as well as a salesman and a commodity to be sold; and that, after all available outlets have been tried, the price is what a willing buyer will pay and a

willing, though sometimes reluctant, salesman will accept.

Under our system of free competitive enterprise, supply and demand fix the level of prices and determine the rationing of the commodity. There is no clearer example of this effect of the meeting of supply and demand upon prices than in the open competitive livestock markets.

### Central Markets

The central livestock markets are conveniently located in the normal flow of livestock from producing areas to consumers. They provide suitable facilities and services. They assemble and offer livestock to attract many buyers. Nearly 26 million sheep and lambs actually pass through those stockyards each year either for sale or delivery to packers on the way to killing floors. They can reach the widest possible buying demand. But you must also support them with a sufficient volume of quality livestock to attract the buyers.

# STOP AT MORRIS FEED YARDS

Tired and travel weary live stock do not sell to best advantage.  
CONDITION YOUR LIVE STOCK BY USING OUR FACILITIES FOR

## FEED AND REST

Best of feed and water with expert attendants night and day. Ample facilities for long or short feed.

Live stock for Kansas City, St. Joseph, St. Louis, Chicago, or any destination beyond Kansas City may be billed to stop at Morris for feed and make the best of connections on to destination.

### CAPACITY:

50,000 Sheep With Up to Date 160 cars good cattle pens, good  
Shearing and Dipping Facilities. grain bunks and hay racks.

Write or wire for complete information

## MORRIS FEED YARDS

Located on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad  
10 Miles West of Kansas City

Operated by SETH N. PATTERSON and ARTHUR HILL

Office: 920 Live Stock Exchange Bldg.

KANSAS CITY, MO.

## SHEEPMEN'S BOOKS

Bennett's The Complete Rancher .....	\$2.75
Flinn's Simplified Income Tax Information and Farm Account Book .....	\$1.00
Hultz & Hill's Range Sheep and Wool .....	3.50
Kammlade's Sheep Science .....	5.00
Kelley's Sheep Dogs, Their Maintenance and Training .....	3.50
Klemme's An American Grazer Goes Abroad .....	2.50
Morrison's Feeds and Feeding .....	7.00
Sampson's Range and Pasture Management .....	4.75
Stoddart & Smith's Range Management .....	5.50
Wentworth & Towne's Shepherd's Empire .....	3.50
Wentworth's America's Sheep Trails .....	7.00
And For The Children	
Perdew's Tenderfoot at Bar X .....	3.00

For Sale By

## NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

414 Pacific National Life Building

Salt Lake City 1, Utah

### Facilities and Service

We who operate the large central markets know that facilities and services are not always adequate or satisfactory, especially during the peak marketing seasons, but you will also understand that we have no control over the number or the time of arrival of your livestock. We are expected to efficiently, economically, and safely handle any amount any time; and we do that to a remarkable degree.

You can plan shipments, and except for emergencies, anticipate your shipping requirements weeks or months in advance. And the buyers can establish and maintain a schedule of buying to fit their plant and personnel capacity. We must "catch as catch can."

Almost without exception major improvements have been made at all of the public markets in the last year or two in order that livestock can be handled more safely and more efficiently. Mechanical equipment has been provided and utilized for yard cleaning to assure more satisfactory work-

ing conditions and sanitation; and for the handling of feed and other materials to reduce handling costs and provide prompter service.

Weighing facilities and equipment have been constantly improved. Experiments now in progress give promise of livestock weighing at these public markets more expeditious and more accurate than was conceived of by livestock men even a year ago.

Every effort has been made to furnish prompt, careful service.

### Government Regulation and Supervision

I wonder if you appreciate what an advantage you have in the Packers and Stockyards Act and the regulation and supervision of marketing provided by the Packers and Stockyards Division at the posted stockyards.

That act requires stockyard owners and sales agencies at the principal stockyards—

1. To furnish adequate stockyard facilities and handling and selling services;

2. To publish and collect without preference reasonable charges for handling and selling services;

3. To establish just, reasonable and non-discriminatory regulations and practices in respect to the services furnished; and

4. To refrain from unfair, unjustly discriminatory or deceptive practices in connection with handling and selling livestock.

As administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, the rates and changes of stockowners have generally been authorized, prescribed, and modified as to pay reasonable operating expenses and return a rather fixed income upon the value of the property used and useful in the rendition of stockyard services, with the rates per unit of livestock going up or down almost automatically with a decrease or increase in the volume of livestock handled. Thus over a period, an increase in volume of livestock at a stockyard would benefit the livestock producer, rather than the stockyard owner, from lower stockyard rates, or at least from the avoidance of increases that would otherwise be necessary because of increased operating expenses.

The provisions of the act and the regulations prescribed by the Secretary thereunder constitute a code of fair trade practices for the livestock industry that is applicable at all of the 210 stockyards subject to the Act, and are the only standards enabling the livestock producer, as well as market men and buyers, to intelligently and dependably compare the several markets and choose the one best suited to his needs.

The supervision of markets and marketing by the P.S.Y. Division assures compliance with the regulations of the Secretary and rules and regulations of the stockyard owners and market agencies, and fair, impartial treatment of those using the markets.

Sales agencies have also been required to provide bonds to insure the payment of the proceeds of sales of livestock and the performances of their other obligations incurred at these markets.

One of the most important advantages you receive from the operation of the Act is the dependable market reports from the supervised markets. Stockyard owners, sales and market reporting agencies are forbidden to make or circulate false or misleading reports, or representation concerning livestock market conditions or the price or sale of any livestock.

I suspect few of you realize that the act affords you a simple, effective means for securing reparation for any violation of the Act; or that most complaints and claims are disposed of without the delay and expense of suits in courts or formal proceedings before the Secretary.

The administration of the Act in recent years has been constructively helpful to the livestock industry and has contributed largely to the improvement of facilities and services at these regulated markets.

The Act was passed in 1921 and after 27 years of operation one finds few changes required in its basic structure to meet today's conditions. Perhaps the only, and certainly the most important, changes needed to meet present conditions are:

1. A change in the basis for determining which stockyards are to come within the provisions of the Act making eligibility depend upon volume or the effect upon prices and flow of livestock, rather than as at present, almost wholly upon the area of the stockyard.

2. A delegation to the Secretary of Agriculture of authority to prescribe and consider the qualifications of sales agents.

#### Your Markets

You have a system of selling your livestock that is unequalled, a system which gives you qualified agency representation for selling under competitive conditions, with Government regulation and supervision of charges and trading practices, and Government inspection to control and prevent spread of livestock diseases. If there is failure of the system in any respect, it is in the operation of the system and not in the system itself. Breakdowns in the operation of the system are the joint responsibility of those who provide the facilities and furnish the services, and those who use and employ them.

I firmly believe that you would benefit much more from efforts to improve the operation of your system of selling through your central markets, which now handle 65 percent of your marketings, than from equal efforts to find, establish and develop other systems of marketing.

These markets were established to serve you; they survive only with your support. They can be effective only to the degree that you support and take an interest in them. They are your public markets. Don't forget that. For you have lambs for sale.

## BROADMEAD.....HAMPSHIRE

*"hard to beat"*

All of our Hampshire Rams are sired by Imported English Rams, and raised on Kentish wild white clover pastures, especially treated with lime and phosphate.

Our usual consignment will be at the National Ram Sale . . . and

*We have rams for sale at all times at the ranch*

HARRY M. HAWKINS, Owner

ROBERT M. FINLAY, Shepherd

J. D. HARPER, Superintendent

Rte. 1, Amity, Oregon



### BONVUE RANCH

Hereford Cattle & Corriedale Sheep  
Golden, Colorado

"The U.S.A.'s greatest imported Corriedale stud cordially invites your inquiry or visit."

### PANAMAS

For 14 years I have been breeding PANAMAS—the popular dual-purpose sheep—and have built up a good purebred flock.

Will have a consignment at the National Ram Sale and some good rams for sale at the ranch.

JOSEPH HORN Rupert, Idaho, Rte. #2

### COLUMBIA RAMS

If your forest permit is cut or some of your leases lost . . . WHY NOT TRY producing MORE WOOL AND LAMBS from a smaller number of sheep by using

DORNEY COLUMBIA RAMS?

Watch for our September Sale Announcement Later

THE BEST ARE ALWAYS THE CHEAPEST

C. W. DORNEY, Monte Vista, Colo.

### HAMPSHIRE

GRAND Champion Wether at Chicago International 1948.

GRAND Champion Wether at Pacific International 1948.

Booklet and Breeders list free

AmericanHampshireSheepAss'n.

72-N Woodland Ave., Detroit 2, Michigan

### Corriedale Sheep

THE DUAL-PURPOSE BREED

Big growthy market-topping lambs. Heavy fleeces of premium quality.

Virtue, long-lived breeding stock.

Many twins that arrive without assistance and grow rapidly.

For booklet and list of active members, write to Rollo E. Singleton, Secretary

AMERICAN CORRIEDALE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
100 N. Garth Ave. Columbia, Mo.

### L. R. STEADMAN & SONS

Salt Lake City, Utah  
and Soda Springs, Idaho

Have to Offer

75 head of Large, Range-Raised

### SUFFOLK

Yearling Rams and 100 head of Large Ram Lambs Sired by University of Idaho and Kelsey & Turner Rams.  
For Fall Delivery

### SUFFOLKS

SUFFOLK RAMS ARE EXCELLENT FOR CROSSBREEDING  
SUFFOLK LAMBS GROW RAPIDLY—HAVE MORE WEIGHT AT MARKET TIME

SUFFOLK LAMBS HAVE AN EXCELLENT CARCASS  
FEEDERS AND PACKERS LIKE SUFFOLK LAMBS

FOR INFORMATION WRITE  
THE AMERICAN SUFFOLK SHEEP SOCIETY  
C. W. Hickman, Secretary-Treasurer,  
Mason, Idaho

Recognized by the Canadian National Livestock Records



# Auxiliary Activities



Left, above, at the Klickitat County Chapter meeting, Goldendale, Washington, March 3rd: Mrs. Paul Dooley, President; Mrs. Clell Lung, National Auxiliary President; and Mrs. H. L. Mesecher, Washington State President. Center, members of the Goldendale, Washington, Chapter. Right, a Yakima, Washington, Chapter group.

## WASHINGTON

### Yakima Chapter

**T**HE Yakima Chapter of the Washington Wool Growers Auxiliary met in the home of the newly elected National President Mrs. Clell Lung, February 19th, with the Lower Valley and Goldendale Chapters as guests. There were detailed reports of the convention in Texas, the "Make-It-Yourself-With Wool" contest, and also of the trip home, which was all very interesting. There was also a short State business meeting.

The Yakima Chapter has adopted a French girl for their 1949 project.

The tables were decorated in patriotic colors with miniature lipsticks for favors. There were eighteen present.

### Lower Yakima Valley Chapter

The Lower Yakima Valley Chapter of the Washington Wool Growers met at the home of Mrs. Chas. Fernandez in Toppenish, March 10th for their annual Birthday Party with a Pot-Luck Luncheon which really was a banquet. The State and national presidents were present. The afternoon was spent in revealing our suppressed desires. This was enjoyed by fourteen guests and eighteen members from over the State.

Mrs. Maud Roberts, Correspondent

### Klickitat Chapter

Mrs. Clell Lung, the new national auxiliary president, visited the Klickitat Chapter on March 3rd at its regular meeting date, and reported the national convention. She was very pleased with the enthusiastic group she found there. About forty members were present for a Pot-Luck Luncheon at the Women's Club House in Goldendale, Washington.

While many of these members are not



Auxiliary luncheon at Toppenish, Washington

actively engaged in the sheep business, they are very faithful supporters in the promotion of the industry. Practically everyone was knitting or crocheting some article of wool. They have made a lot of money, much of which has been used in the promotion work and some of which has been used in the new hospital fund of the town of Goldendale.

Mrs. Clyde Story is the new chairman of the "Make-It-Yourself-With-Wool" contest this year. Helping her in publicity are Miss Pat Armeling, 4-H Extension Director of Klickitat County, and Mrs. E. L. Binns. They make a very enthusiastic committee and have excellent contacts with the newspapers both in Washington and Oregon. The Washington "Farmer" and Washington State Extension Service are supporting and giving them publicity, and various woolen mills are furnishing prizes, so much favorable reaction to the contest should be created this year.

The Ways and Means Committee keeps articles which the State Auxiliary has for sale before the members at all meetings. This helps a good deal financially during the course of the year.

## UTAH

The Utah Auxiliary President Mrs. Emory Smith and three members of the Salt Lake Chapter, Mrs. J. P. Langenbacker, Mrs. H. H. Stevens and Mrs. Lucy Seely, have recently returned from a three-day trip which took them

a-visiting auxiliary chapters at Fountain Green, Manti, and Cedar City, Utah, and two other groups which we hope will eventually be organized chapters, at Richfield and Parowan.

The purpose of the trip was to make those much-needed personal contacts with the women whose husbands are connected with the sheep industry, give a report of the national convention, lay plans for this year's "Make-It-Yourself-With-Wool" contest, and exchange ideas generally. It is also in line with our new National President Mrs. Lang's request that we work hard to increase our membership.

With increased membership in mind I wrote the home demonstration agents or county agents (where there is no demonstration agent) in each county, asking them to send me the names of key women in each community who might be interested in getting together a group of women who would be eligible to belong to the auxiliary. These people were very kind to answer this request and in this manner I was able to write letters to the women whose names were suggested, asking them to call together the women in their communities and those from nearby towns and let us visit with them and tell them what we are trying to do in the auxiliary and give them the reasons why they should belong.

We enjoyed meeting the many lovely personalities at each stop. We were royally entertained by each group of ladies and believe that from this visit they may be enthused to greater accomplishments this coming year.

Our first stop was at Fountain Green where the members entertained us at a lovely luncheon and after we had given them what information we had it was my privilege to take charge of election of officers for the new year. Mrs. Eva Jacobson was elected president with Mrs. Nita Cook as her vice-president and Mrs. Velda Jacobson, secretary-treasurer.

Leaving Fountain Green we drove to Manti where Mrs. Glenn Rowe, chapter president, had called together ladies from Manti, Gunnison and Ephraim, at the City Hall Club Room to meet with us. There were some interested ladies from those two towns and they felt that they could work better hand-in-hand with the Manti group than being organized in smaller chapters of their own. We were served delightful light refreshments here before we again

went on our way to Richfield where we spent the night.

At Richfield we met at the home of gracious Mrs. Floyd Anderson. Mrs. Anderson had invited ladies from Monroe, Salina, Sigurd, and other neighboring towns to meet with us at her home and a few interested ones did come. A delightful two hours was spent in going over auxiliary aims and getting acquainted. We hope to have this group a bonafide chapter before long. Mrs. Anderson served the group light refreshments which came just in the nick of time to send us on our way to Cedar City for a meeting that evening at the home of Mrs. Parson Webster, the jovial and charming president of that auxiliary. We spent a pleasant evening getting better acquainted with the Cedar City ladies and telling them of the plans for the sewing contest, etc.

The morning of the third day we stopped at Parowan where we met for the second time, a very charming per-

sonality, Mrs. Lowe, and another interested and interesting Parowan sheep-grower's wife, Mrs. Burton. We hope, with the help of these two women that we can get an active chapter in Parowan.

Returning to Salt Lake City we tarried at Mapleton long enough to visit Scoville's famous eating place for one of their delicious steak dinners, and arrived home later feeling as though we had indeed had a very wonderful "Spring Vacation."

As this article is being written, I am preparing to leave, accompanied by Mrs. S. I. Greer and Mrs. H. S. Erickson, and Mrs. Blanche Kearnes to pay a visit to the American Fork Chapter at the home of Mrs. Delbert T. Chipman, our recent past national president. This should prove to be an equally pleasant afternoon.

Mrs. Emory Smith,  
State President

## Rules For Third Annual Sewing Contest

**G**IRLS from 14 to 21 years of age in the 13 Western States will now be picking up needles and thread and fine wool fabrics. For the 3rd annual "Make It Yourself-With Wool" contest has been officially opened. Closing date is December 1, 1949.

This event, sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary of the National Wool Growers Association and The Wool Bureau, Inc.\*, of course needs no introduction or explanation to the readers of the National Wool Grower. However, there are some changes in the general plan for this year: First, greater emphasis is being placed on State contests. There will only be two contestants from each State eligible to compete in the National Fashion show in Denver, Colorado where the convention of the National Wool Growers will be held December 6th to 9th, 1949—the best in the Junior division and the best in the Senior class.

"Because the contest centers especially in each State," says the contest announcement, "contrary to past practices when the principal awards were made only in the National Fashion Show, The Wool Bureau is presenting \$250.00 in Government bonds to be

awarded winners selected in each State. Arrangements for State contests will be conducted entirely by the Women's Auxiliary of the National Wool Growers Association. Rules and regulations will be set up by the auxiliary of each individual State."

The awards to be given in each State by the Wool Bureau will be divided as follows:

First Prize for the best garment in all divisions of the Senior Class—\$50 savings bond.

First Prize for the best garment in all divisions of the Junior Class—\$50 savings bond.

### Senior Class

Best Suit—\$25 savings bond.

Best Dress—\$25 savings bond.

Best Coat—\$25 savings bond.

### Junior Class

Best Suit—\$25 savings bond.

Best Dress—\$25 savings bond.

Best Coat—\$25 savings bond.

These prizes will be presented on the basis of rules and merit points set up by the individual State auxiliaries. State contestants aspiring to enter the national contest must, however, comply with rules and regulations listed for the National contest.

\*This is the agency set up jointly by the American Wool Council and the International Wool Secretariat for the promotion of wool in this country.

The two winners selected in each State will go on to Denver to try for the national grand prizes, which include college scholarships and United States Savings Bonds. They will be judged there on the following points:

	Maximum Award Points
A. Workmanship and fit of garment	25
B. General attractiveness of costume on contestant—including judgment shown in choice of style, fabric texture, color and trimmings suitable and becoming to individual	50
C. Presentation of costume—including its absolute cleanliness and evidence of having been properly pressed, correct accessories	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Entry Rules and Regulations For the National Contest

1. The contest is open to young women from 14 to 21 years of age. Contestants will be divided into two classifications: Junior and Senior.

Junior Class will include all contestants from 14 through 18 years of age.  
Senior class will include those from 19 through 21 years of age.

Age of contestant at time of National Contest termination, December 1, 1949, shall be considered basis for classification.

2. The contest has three divisions: COATS, SUITS and DRESSES for street, sports or formal wear. Each contestant may place only one garment in each division. She may, however, enter each of the three divisions—coat, dress and suit—if she wishes.
3. All garments entered in the contest must be made of 100 per cent virgin wool.
4. All contestants in the national fashion show wishing to be considered for Grand Prize Scholarship awards, either in cash or actual scholarships awarded by schools, must be willing to use the scholarship for furthering their education not later than six months after the close of the contest, or in the case of undergraduate, not later than six months after high school graduation.
5. The entry garment may be made according to the contestant's own design or from any commercial pattern.
6. Each garment entered must be accompanied by a typewritten letter of not more than 200 words setting forth:
  - a. The type of fabric from which the garment was made, the reason for its choice and its advantages for the use intended.
  - b. The pattern used, or a statement that the garment was made according to the entrant's own design.
  - c. The total itemized cost of the garment, including fabrics and all other component parts.

As in the past, this year's contest

will be open to contestants in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

"All contestants," says The Wool Bureau announcement, "must fill in

both national and State entry blanks. These blanks are available upon request from the auxiliary chairman in each State, the Home Sewing Director in each State, and from The Wool Bureau, Inc., 16 West 46th Street, New York, New York."

## Soil Conservation Meeting

By Harold J. Burback

THE Third Annual Meeting of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts was held at the Shirley-Savoy Hotel in Denver, Colorado, February 15, 16, and 17, 1949.

The meeting was exceptionally well attended. There were delegates from every state in the Union with the exception of Massachusetts. The entire convention brought home the splendid job which has been done to organize the stockmen and farmers themselves into an organization of tremendous importance in the conservation work within the Nation. The delegates expressed tremendous enthusiasm and sincerity for the task at hand. While their local conditions might vary throughout the Nation, their ultimate objective was one and the same, and their slogan, "A Well Balanced Farm Program is the Foundation of Permanent Agriculture," certainly permeated the entire convention. The national president, Mr. Kent Leavitt of Millbrook, New York, is a very capable leader and his comprehensive and broad view of the national problem makes him a power to be reckoned with in the discussion of the national conservation work.

Most of the first day was consumed in reports by the various States, each one commenting on their progress during the past year and their plans for the future. It was interesting to learn that there was a wide variation between appropriations of the various State legislatures for the soil conservation district work. The South seems to be taking the lead in this excellent national movement, and their enthusiasm is reflected by the size of the appropriations in the southern States. The State legislature of Louisiana, as an example, has appropriated \$800,000 for soil conservation district work. Each State reported the State cooperation they are receiving. In some of

the northern States, the sums are almost inconsequential, one State reporting the paltry amount of \$2,500, and several others reporting no appropriation at all.

One of the most impressive things about the meeting was the fact that it was composed almost entirely of farmer-members who serve without remuneration and who made the long trip to report the progress of their States. Georgia, as an example, had some 32 delegates, almost as many as Colorado, the host State to the convention.

The banquet the first night was a most impressive affair at which some 873 people were served. The address by Robert S. Wilson, vice president of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, was on "The Trilogy of Conservation," namely, Soil, Self, and the Soul. His presentation emphasized the tremendous interest of industry in the work being done in soil conservation as is evidenced by the many prizes offered by newspapers, industrial concerns such as the B. F. Goodrich Company, and others.

An address by Mr. Kent Leavitt, National President, Millbrook, New York, was a warning to farmers from Maine to California that they must adopt voluntary soil conservation practices or "Socialistic" control will be forced upon them. Mr. Leavitt declared that American soil conservation is so vital to the welfare of the world that it cannot be left to the caprice of the individual farmer. A national cooperative effort is what the association is seeking, he said. In order to accomplish the goal of voluntary conservation, the Nation's farmers, he said, must:

- (1) Change their thinking about the ownership of land. "We must consider ownership of land a trusteeship. We



have made a start in this direction, but we have a long way to go."

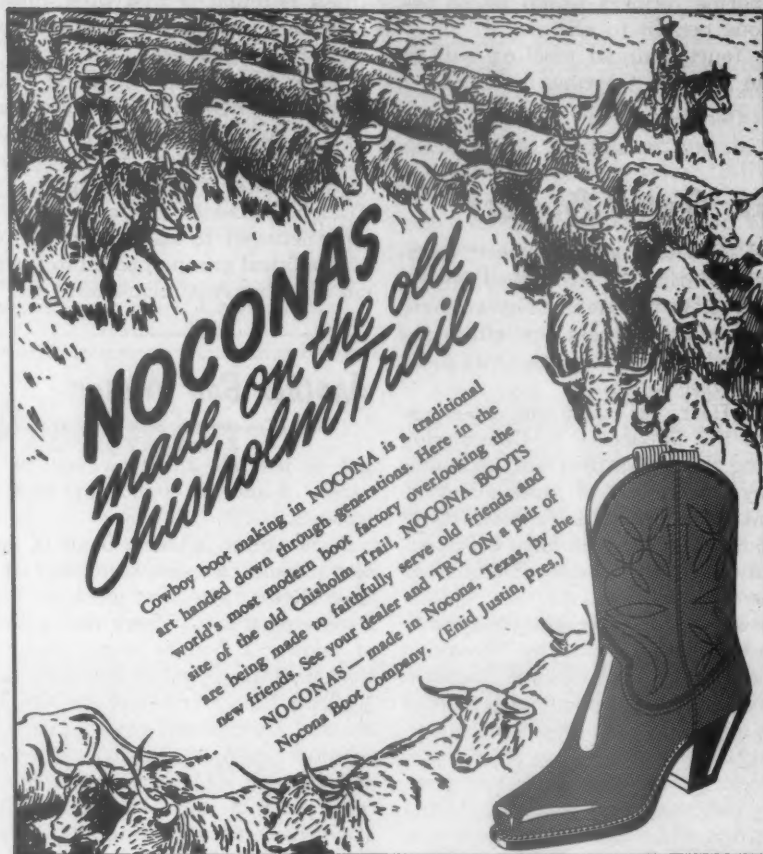
(2) Develop a scientific program of land use. "We lead the world in this today."

(3) Apply the new science to every acre of land in the country. "This can be done through mandatory legislation or by paying everybody—either of which amounts of Socialism—or it can be done through a nation-wide co-operative effort."

He pointed out that the United States spends only a quarter of its national income on such necessities as food and clothing, whereas most countries spend 35 percent, and some spend as high as 90 percent.

"If we can hammer out a program of soil conservation to fit every part of the country, we will have done a most patriotic thing. We have the burden of world leadership, and it will be heavy," he declared.

There were eleven committees appointed who were asked to report on eleven subjects, and the work of the committees started in the evening of the second day. Unfortunately, but perhaps of necessity, there was considerable overlapping in the reports of the various committees. Four committees in particular, the Committee on Public Lands, the Committee on Legislation, the Committee on Forestry, and the Committee on Cooperation with Other Agencies were of interest to stockmen and ranchers because they dealt with the problems peculiar to the range States. Because of their lack of intimate contact with the public land problem, there was naturally a dearth of understanding of the program on the public lands. Fortunately, the Committee on Public Lands included in its membership stockmen, both sheep and cattle operators, who were quite familiar with the controversy and particularly the tie-up between the soil and moisture conservation work on privately owned lands and the adjacent public lands. Many members of the committee were uninformed in regard to the steps already taken by the various public land agencies in formulating long-time plans for soil and moisture conservation work on the public lands. Some of the criticism voiced by the committee was directed at the lack of coordination of the program of the soil conservation districts and the public land agencies, and the lack of accomplishment on the public lands as



viewed through the eyes of the private land owners. It was not realized by the members of the committee, or by the delegates in general, the small amount of money available for soil and moisture conservation work through appropriations by Congress for the public lands within the public land States.

The recommendation of the Hoover Commission, insofar as conservation work is concerned, was discussed in detail. The outcome of the discussion was a unanimous feeling that whatever agency finally assumes the responsibility for soil conservation work in the United States should have as its foundation the philosophy of local autonomy as practiced by the soil conservation districts and the Bureau of Land Management in its range management program. While the committee's recommendations to the convention at large were subject to some re-wording by the board of directors, in substance the recommendations of the Committee on Public Lands were as follows:

1. There should be greater coordination and integration of the program of the soil

conservation districts and the public land agencies.

2. Public land agencies should be given sufficient funds by Congress to properly carry on their program and keep it consistent with the work being done on private lands.

3. Any agency handling the conservation of soil under any reorganization plan should operate on the fundamental plan of local autonomy and not under bureaucratic or autocratic control by a bureau in Washington.

There is no denying the tremendous influence that the soil conservation districts are playing, and will play, in the Nation's economy and in the entire conservation movement. Their political influence is tremendous in every corner of the Nation, because there is no question of their sincerity and honesty in guiding the thinking in this most important subject. The stockmen and ranchers of the West would do well to take more interest in the work being done by the soil conservation districts in their respective areas for many of the districts' actions will have a direct bearing upon their own operations. A mutual understanding of the problems currently encountered by the livestock men and those of their

neighboring farmers would be of tremendous benefit to all.

The fourth annual meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, in February, 1950.

## Aftosa Control Progress

SOME 5,918,516 animals were vaccinated during the first three months of this year in the Mexican area where foot-and-mouth disease, or aftosa, as the Mexicans call it, exists. Only 6,481 animals were killed.

Gen. Harry H. Johnson, co-chairman of the Mexico-U. S. Commission handling the aftosa program, estimates that by the middle of June about 95 percent of the animals, or between 12 and 15 million head, will have been vaccinated once and a considerable number for the second time.

Objective of the present program is to eradicate the disease by "breaking up the virus cycle," through the vaccination of every clovenhoofed animal in the infected area three times in one year.

Success or failure of the program will be indicated, it is expected, during the second vaccination. If there has been no increase in the disease at that time it will be considered as evidence of real progress in eradication. If more

aftosa is found at that time, however, new plans will have to be made for coping with the disease.

Some progress is also being made in breaking down the opposition and effects of subversive elements in Mexico. The killing of Robert H. Proctor, young United States livestock inspector from Tucson, Arizona, on January 31st, is now believed to have been the work of a political group opposed to the present Mexican Administration.

## Another Bad Winter

(Continued from page 21)

put to bed all in. However, he survived. I am still wondering how they stood it.

That winter, I had a band of lambs, also a band of ewes, wintering on Big Lost River. The first week in March, I went up there. There was still a lot of snow. I bought some more hay, enough, I thought, to last until April 1st, and then went back to Minidoka. At that time, there were quite a few people living in Minidoka that had cows and horses. I borrowed a little hay from some of them. I had ordered a car of hay, not expecting I would need it. It was a big car, so I was not too well pleased about it. The morning of March 10th, we started to unload it. I

can remember vividly standing in the door of that car of hay, looking at the big black cloud in the south. It snowed about 10 inches and got down to 17 below zero on St. Patrick's morning. I goes to show the weather can be freakish in Idaho. The sheep all had to come back in. Several years previously, I had bought some baled hay in Idaho Falls, in case of an emergency. When I came to need it, it was so badly spoiled it was not worth shipping. The party that I bought it from told me he had lots of good oat straw. If I wanted it, all it would cost was the freight. We had built a corral with some of it, which was left standing when the sheep were moved, but they cleaned it up in a hurry when they came back in. The weather broke about March 20th; no loss and a fine spring.

The first week in April I left one of the camps to meet the sheep coming from Lost River, got too far west and missed them. Along toward night, there came a heavy, wet snow. I knew the country as I had been through it before. I also knew there were camps ahead, but that I would be taking a chance in finding one. I also knew that if I did not find a camp, there would be no shelter or anything to build a fire with. Where I was there were lots of lava and big sage brush. I spotted a ledge which I could get under, with lots of big brush. I hobbled my horse and stayed for the night, ate the last of my lunch when daylight came, and started for my horse. He was mean to lead, and I did not dare ride him bareback. It was 12 o'clock when I got back to the saddle, found a camp about 3 o'clock, so had a good meal. My yearling camp was only a little way off, and I stayed there that night.

I started south in the morning to find the ewes, got to them at sundown where I told the herder to be when I left them on Lost River. The ewes were due to start lambing April 15th. I wanted to get them to Laidlaw Park where my other sheep were. To go around the lava, I figured would take at least three days, so had decided to cross about five miles of black lava.

In the morning, we started the sheep into the lava, leading them a long way following some corn we had, and taking a horse, a couple of horse blankets and some food. That night, we had to camp in the lava. I slept a little in the blankets, and the herder kept a fire going, but the coyotes killed three

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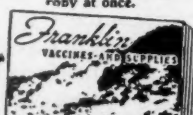
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sheep during the night. About noon of the second day, the horse got scared, bucked a little, the saddle turned and so our little bit of food was lost. Got off the lava about noon, put in another night in the horse blankets. When morning came, a camp tender showed up with a nice breakfast. The sheep made connection with the camp that day and made a good lambing. Prices were good and so, in a way, the winter was soon forgotten.

There have been a lot of changes

since that time. We have had a number of severe winters since, including 1917 when the hay was all fed up April 1st and there was no feed on the range until nearly May 1st. But in all my 57 years in Idaho, no winter has ever been as bad as the past one; it was by far the worst, covering so much country, blizzard after blizzard with continued cold.

James Laidlaw

(James Laidlaw is the well-known Idaho breeder of Panamas and Suffolks.)

## An Ounce of Prevention

THE airplane has become so important in search and rescue work in the West that its potential should be exploited to the fullest extent. It can and does save lives and property, when it is properly used. There are times when it fails, however, and this article concerns a suggestion which may be a good "ounce of prevention."

In December, two sheepherders, J. H. Flores and Ben Casados, were lost in the Red Desert of southwestern Wyoming with 1900 sheep belonging to P. E. Daley of Rawlins, a member of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association. Ground search was almost out of the question because of the deep snows, and finally an airplane from Rawlins took off to fly over the barren stretches of eastern Sweetwater County. Pilots were Leonard Hay, a vice president of the Wyoming Association, and Elva Eversall of Rock Springs, who use the airplane in their sheepherding work.

Locating flocks from the air was easy. They saw several, but the matter of determining which was which, which flock was lost, was beyond them, as they preferred not to fly too low for fear of causing a stampede.

As a result of their experience, one of the Civil Aeronautics Administration's Aviation Safety Agents, Harold L. Grandy, at Cheyenne, made a suggestion which may appeal to sheep growers. He suggests that herders mark the top of their sheep wagons with a distinguishing mark so that the man in the air will be able to distinguish and know when he has found it. Use of the brand would be adequate, since a record of the brand is available for reference to the pilot.

Clyde J. Bonham of Wyoming Skyways, Inc., Cheyenne, proposes that all outlying ranches might well mark one of their outbuildings with a brand mark. Such identifying symbols, he

says, would be of great help to the pilot, and might actually be of vital importance in future emergencies similar to the one we have passed through this winter. He says that location of these ranches could be marked on aeronautical charts for use by Civil Aeronautics Administration traffic controllers and others concerned in search and rescue work by airmen, and he believes the practice would save lives. So while the rancher is on top of his wagon with a paint brush, he might step to the barn roof and repeat his brand.

If you would like further information on this matter, please contact your nearest airport and find out the location of the Civil Aeronautics Administration representative in your district. Or you may write to Ben Stern, Director, Office of Aviation Information, Civil Aeronautics Administration, Washington 25, D. C.



Example of an air marker on an industrial building. Recommended height of letters in a populated area is a 10-ft. minimum. Brand on a sheep wagon couldn't be this large but should be as large as space will permit so that pilots can see it without having to fly so low as to cause a stampede.

For good visibility from the air, black paint on a canvas top of a sheep wagon would probably be best. In the case of a building, chrome yellow or black paint is best, depending on the contrasting background.





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# Around the Range Country

## ARIZONA

Cold and showery first of month. Lambing about three-fifths completed in north; some losses. Livestock improving on ranges. Temperatures above normal middle and end of month. Ranges drying rapidly. Livestock picking up. Lambs moving to market in Phoenix area; good to excellent weights.

## CALIFORNIA

Ranges improving first week. Some supplemental feeding of cattle and sheep. Temperatures above normal mid-month and last week. In north coastal areas ranges drying, livestock good. Pastures, ranges and grass need rain.

### Woodland, Yolo County

Feed is as good as it has been (April 15) or better than in the past 2 years. Sheep wintered very well.

We lambed in November and had mild weather and sufficient help. Many lambs contracted for spring delivery have already been delivered. April lamb sales on the ranches were for 29 and 30 cents per pound.

There have been no sales of fine-wool or crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes, but there has been talk of the price being \$30.

Shearers received 30 cents without board this year, as they did last. Contract rate is 37 cents and includes shearing, tying and machine (plant).

About 75 percent of the 1949 clip has been sold.

Robert E. Reiff

## COLORADO

Cloudy and cool fore part of month. Precipitation unusually heavy and general. Livestock fair to good, with lambing and shearing underway. Temperatures slightly below normal second week. End of month, livestock good to excellent. Pastures and ranges improved. Lambing nearing completion; good yield.

## IDAHO

General freezing at night first week. Range grass growing well. Sunny, warm and dry as month progressed. Light, scattered showers, lower ranges very dry, as month ended.

### Twin Falls, Twin Falls County

Weather and feed conditions have been good (April 1). We had a hard winter but there is water on the desert this spring in holes that have been dry for years. Sheep came through the winter in fine shape. Baled alfalfa is \$25 per ton.

Lambing is over and fewer lambs were saved than a year ago. The weather was terrible during lambing but we had enough help.

The sheep have been shorn. Shearers received 30 cents with board, and 35 cents without.

Possibly half of the '49 wool has been consigned. An advance of 25 cents a pound was offered.

Edwin T. Wells

### Twin Falls, Twin Falls County

Our country is very dry. We need rain desperately (April 27). Late shearing is starting in our section and should be well under way the first of May. The wools appear to be extremely light shrinking this year and should

bring a good price per pound and we hope a good net per head.

John H. Breckenridge

## MONTANA

Mild and dry. Lambing good progress, losses normal, beginning of month. By second week, lambing over half completed. Beneficial rain and snow last of month. Livestock fair to good. Range growth slow.

### Columbus, Stillwater County

At present, there is ample feed on the ranches (April 15) to carry stock until grass comes. The spring range looks good. We have just had a 2-day rain and general conditions are as good as the last 2 or 3 years. Sheep wintered well. Stacked alfalfa is \$20 per ton, and baled, \$25.

Lambing has commenced and so far the average is above 100 percent. We had good weather until the recent storm, and we had the help we needed. A few lamb contracts have been made at 20 and 21 cents for fall delivery.

Yearling ewes in the wool have recently sold at \$26 and \$27. There are not many available.

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Shearing will start about June 10. Shearers will be paid 25 cents with board and 27 cents without, tallying with last year's rates. The ranchers do the wrangling and sacking.

William Witt

### Dillon, Beaverhead County

There is plenty of old feed on the range. The new grass has just barely started (April 4). The snow is very slow in moving off.

Our sheep wintered well but it was costly. Baled alfalfa is \$25 and \$26 per ton, and stacked is from \$18 to \$20.

Lambing is just starting and it is too early to determine what our percentage will be. Sufficient help appears to be available.

No lambs have been contracted for fall delivery in this section, but in northern and eastern Montana, they are being contracted at 20 to 21½ cents per pound.

Sheep will be shorn from June 25 to July 1. Wool has been contracted at from 62½ to 68 cents. Perhaps 25 percent has been sold.

S. E. Whitworth

### NEVADA

Temperatures below normal early in the month. Sheep shearing beginning. Mostly fair and warm at mid-month. Good rains needed.

### NEW MEXICO

Cold and stormy first week, considerable high wind. Range growth retarded by cold. Sheep shearing continuing. Livestock showing improvement mid-month, with condition mostly good. Scattered showers last week. Ranges slow but beginning to furnish some feed. Livestock in good condition.

### Flying H, Chaves County

Lambing is just beginning (April 10), but prospects are for a much better lamb crop than last year. Weather is good so far. Lambing in our country is loose in pasture and no extra help is needed.

Feed is very short but about the same as the past two years. Early moisture promises early feed. Sheep wintered very well because of reduced numbers. Baled alfalfa is \$30 per ton.

Crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes have sold recently at \$25 per head. Shearing is over. Shearers received 25 cents without board, as they did last year. The contract rate which

was 25 cents included tying and sacking.

Practically all the wool in our section is fine and has been contracted for sale at 60 to 66 cents per pound, grease.

A. Clement Hendricks

### Tierra Amarilla, Rio Arriba County

Weather conditions are good (April 18), but feed is short. Conditions are better than last year, however. Indications point to good feed on the lambing range this year. I fed my sheep during the winter and will continue to do so until May 1, as the lambing range is pretty wet.

Lambing will commence about May 15 and we will have plenty of help. Shearing will start about June 1. Shearers will receive 27 cents without board, the same as last year.

About half of the 1949 wool in this section has been sold from 45 to 50 cents per pound. It is mixed wool.

Carlos Manzanares

### OREGON

Low temperatures retarded pastures, ranges, hay and grass. Livestock generally good with lamb crop average or better. In south and east, mid-month, pastures and ranges abnormally dry. Conditions unchanged end of month.

### Mitchell, Wheeler County

It has been very dry all through April (April 18). Alfalfa is \$30 baled, and \$25 stacked.

We have had good lambing weather. Lambs will number about the same as a year ago. Help, however, has been short for about 10 years.

Fine-wool yearling ewes are selling at \$26 and crossbred (whitefaced) at \$28.

May 5th will see the start of shearing operations in this section.

C. A. Cole

### Philomath, Benton County

Most of the wool in this area has been consigned, including all grades. A 40-cent advance was offered, with no interest rate.

We need rain badly (April 17). The weather is hot and dry—not as good as last year. Sheep came through the winter in excellent condition. Baled alfalfa is running \$40 to \$45 a ton.

Lambing has been completed. Our lamb crop ran around 130 percent for



our registered Suffolks. The weather was cold during lambing, but we had plenty of help.

Medium wool ewes have been sold here at \$28 per head.

Shearing will be done in May.

Glenn Cox

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Temperatures above normal. Surface soil water adequate. About four inches of snow fell toward end of month.

## TEXAS

Unfavorably cold and wet in many areas first of month. Sheep and lambs improving. Showers continued into month. Sheep shearing underway in Northern Plateau. All-time highs being paid for spring and yearling lambs. The rains throughout the

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month, although doing some damage, proved very beneficial.

### Sanderson, Terrell County

About 50 percent of the fine wool has been contracted or sold at 75 cents per pound (April 20). Lambing has commenced and the number of lambs saved is 10 percent higher. Mild weather prevailed during lambing and help was sufficient. Some lambs have been contracted for fall delivery at \$13 to \$15 per head.

Feed on the range is shorter than usual and is dry and hard. However, we had a good rain today, 3 inches. Our sheep wintered well on feed. Baled alfalfa is \$40 a ton.

Sheep will be shorn around May 1, with shearers receiving 22½ cents without board.

R. N. Allen

### San Angelo, Tom Green County

It is raining today (April 20). Started night before last and has drizzled and rained off and on since then. We have had about 2½ inches here and it has ranged from ½ inch to 5 inches. Del Rio had a good rain and a heavy hail storm. They are still having freakish weather. Shearing is well underway in the Del Rio country and is working in this direction.

Ernest Williams

## UTAH

Temperatures averaged above normal. Sheep shearing beginning. Fair and warm mid-month, with general rains up to one inch. Good rains needed by end of month. Shearing sheep in full swing, but contracting for wool slow.

### Fountain Green, Sanpete County

About half of the Fountain Green wools were contracted last December or in January. Prices ranged from 55 cents to 60 cents. However, only one clip sold at the high figure. Total wool sold and consigned amounted to about 500,000 pounds. About 200,000 pounds was contracted.

My lambs and the lambs of one other grower at Fountain Green have been contracted at 22 cents for October 1 delivery (April 27).

James L. Nielson

### Lyman, Wayne County

We have had plenty of dry feed on our winter range, but spring has been

at least 15 days late. Losses in this section have been about normal, although the sheep are not in as good shape as last year (April 15).

Some fine-wool yearlings sold for \$24 per head out of the wool.

Shearing is just starting. All labor is included for a 40-cent rate. About 32,000 pounds of wool have been sold at 50 cents per pound—mostly fine wool.

Sam Allen

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## WASHINGTON

Temperatures 2° to 3° below normal at opening. General freezing at night. Spring range prospects in east, excellent; pasture in west very slow. Mid-month, sheep shearing commenced in east. Livestock moving to spring ranges. Soil becoming dry at end of month. Most livestock on spring ranges and in generally very good condition.

### Riverside, Okanogan County

The ranges were in good shape when winter began, but due to a cold, late spring, grass conditions are now below normal (April 8). Sheep came through the winter much below normal.

Stacked alfalfa is \$25 per ton; baled, \$32.

Lambing is in progress. The lamb crop will be at least 10 percent below normal, maybe more. The weather has been cold but help is ample.

Sheep will be shorn around May 20.

I sold my entire '49 wool clip for 48 cents, with no deductions for tags.

Emmett Smith

### Yakima, Yakima County

Shearing began April 1 and is still in progress (April 20). Shearers receive 25 cents with board, the same as a year ago. Most contracts made furnish shearers, plant, wool tyer and wool sacker—25c, 5c, 2c, 2c—or 34 cents in the bag. Most of the 1949 wool will be consigned, including fine, half-blood, three-eighths and quarter blood. The advance will amount to 65 percent of the value at a 5 percent interest rate. I know of only one clip in this area which went to a dealer at 50 cents, for crossbred wool.

It is very dry here; there has been no rain this month. The hard winter froze out the sheep feed and we have only cheatgrass, which is drying and beginning to head out, and some green bunchgrass which is not good lamb feed. In comparison, last spring was very good with an abundance of rain and plenty of flowers, weeds and lamb feed. Sheep wintered below normal and we fed heavier than ever before. The price on alfalfa is \$20 stacked and \$28 to \$30 baled.

We had sufficient help for lambing, but the winter was very cold and stormy. The number of lambs has decreased by 25 percent, partly due to the fact that 40 percent of the ewes were 2-year-olds with first lambs. There have been 2 contracts for black-face lambs at \$23 per hundredweight.

Sometime ago, crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes were sold for \$30 to \$32. Yakima Sheep Co.

## WYOMING

Snow melting slowly and soaking into ground, with little runoff. Livestock in fair condition for season. Grass slow in starting, account coolness. Warm and dry second week. Light precipitation, mostly snow in extreme south. Last week, livestock generally good.

### Cheyenne, Laramie County

There is no activity in the wool business in this part of Wyoming. One band of ewes and lambs are sold for May 1 delivery at \$29 a pair; I would say 10 percent old sheep (April 27).

H. B. Reed

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## Node, Niobrara County

Most livestock reached spring in fairly good condition. March and April have been warm and dry, making ideal lambing and calving weather. The last few days we have been getting badly needed rain (April 30). Grass got an early start but was showing signs of needing moisture.

Sheep numbers in the county are slightly below a year ago. Prices are noticeably higher. Ewes in the fleece with lamb at side sell from \$25 to \$30, depending on age and quality of the ewes. I have not heard of any local transactions on yearling ewes.

The wool buyers must have retired after last year's big payoff. Despite its scarcity, wool appears to be an unwanted product. The little talk being done on wool buying consists of consigning, but no prices are mentioned. It seems to me wool buyers (not consignment men) would do well to spend more time watching the wool go into bags. The best way to know a clip of wool is to see the sheep and the conditions under which they are run; then watch the shearing, the tying, grading, sacking, weighing, marking of the bags and storage. To learn the shrinkage, one need only use the coring machine.

The wool growers would soon produce high quality wools if the buyers would pay according to the merits of individual clips instead of buying on an average price basis where the profits made on good clips must make up for losses suffered from poor clips.

The lamb outlook is encouraging. Lamb feeders made nice profits on last year's lambs and this may stimulate feeder lamb buying this fall. With the continued strong demand for stock sheep, whitefaced ewe lambs are sure to sell for a premium.

Sheep raising seems to be a favorable business. Lamb prices have gone up, wool is about the same, while most other agricultural products have taken noticeable price drops.

Leo Pfister

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